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KING ALFREDS
ANGLO-SAXON
VERSION
OF THE METRES
OF BOETHIUS.

—
BY THE
REV. S. FOX, M.A.

3 -

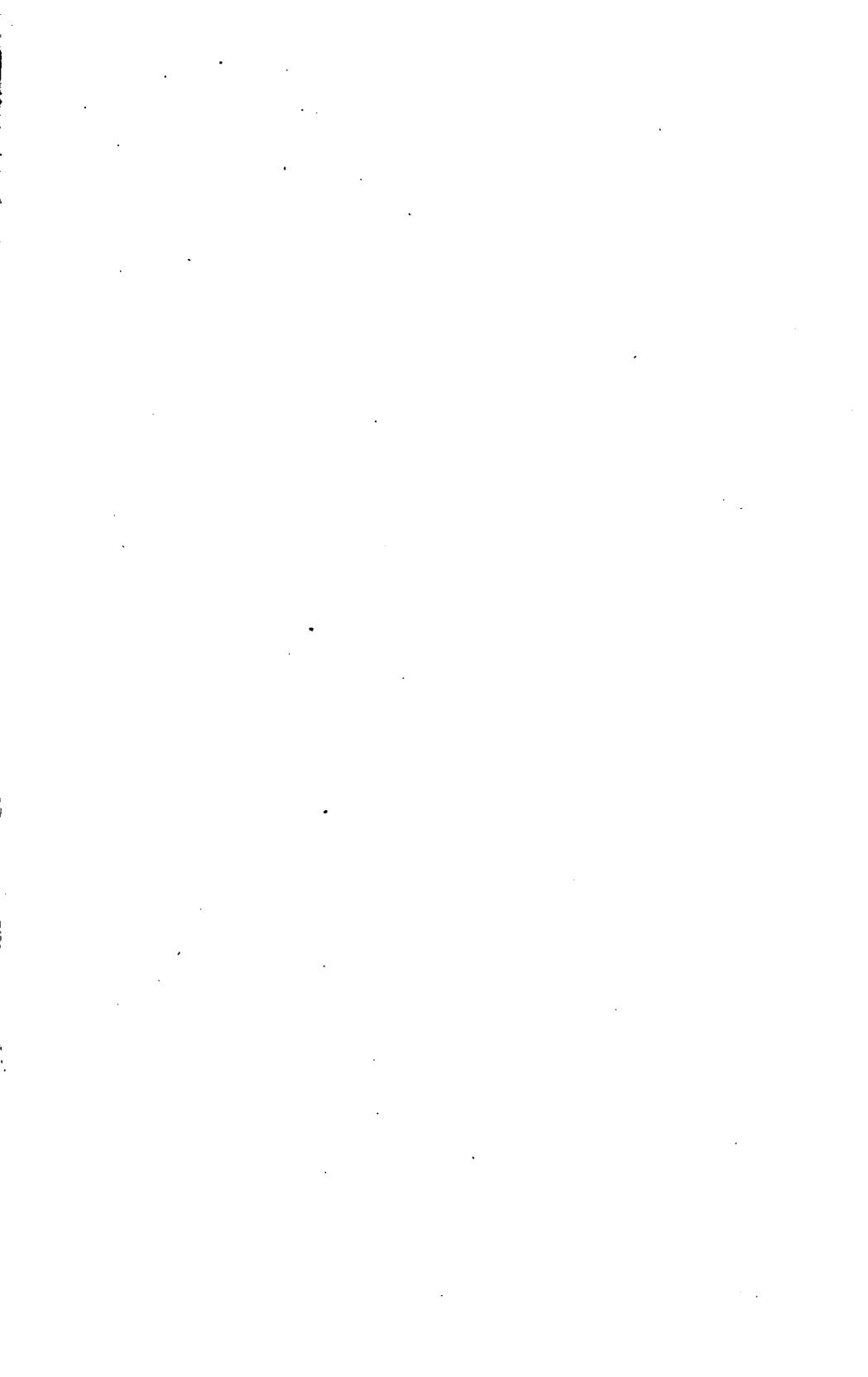
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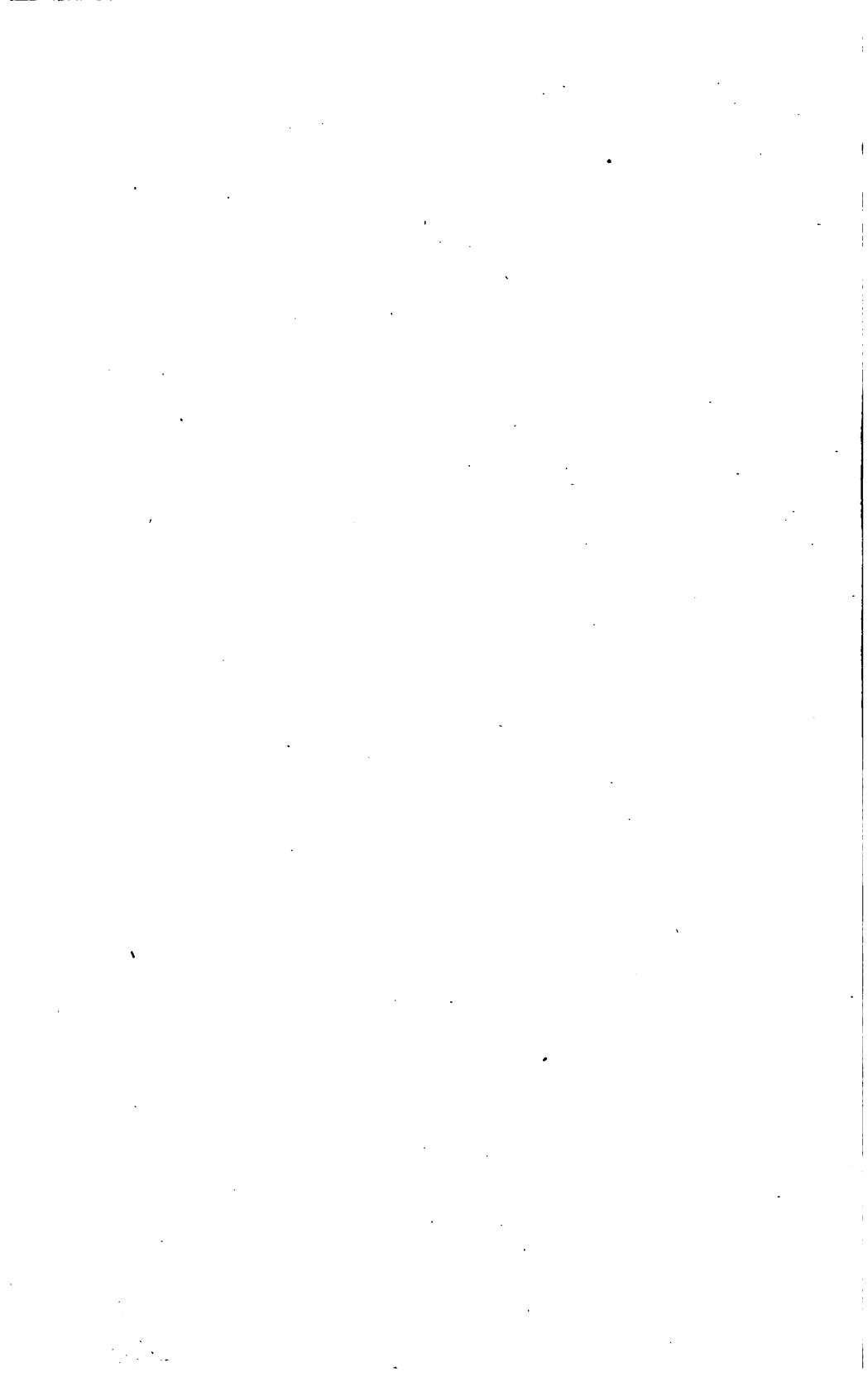


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KING ALFRED'S
ANGLO-SAXON VERSION OF THE METRES

OF

BOETHIUS,

WITH

AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION, AND NOTES;

BY

THE REV. SAMUEL FOX, M. A.

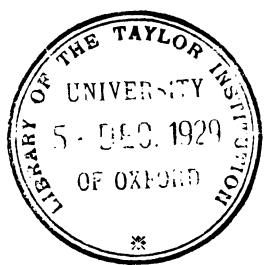
OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD;
TRANSLATOR OF THE POETICAL CALENDAR OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS.

LONDON :

WILLIAM PICKERING, CHANCERY LANE :
J. H. PARKER; AND WILLIAM GRAHAM, OXFORD: AND
T. COMBE, JUNIOR, LEICESTER.

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PREFACE.

THE increasing taste for Saxon literature rendering it desirable that those works which contain the purest specimens of the language of our forefathers should be made accessible to every student, I have been induced to complete that which was so ably commenced by J. S. Cardale, Esq.; but, at the same time, I cannot avoid expressing my unfeigned regret, that this portion of the work did not fall into those hands, which proved their competency to the task, by the publication of a correct and elegant edition of the prose part of King Alfred's version of Boethius.

The only complete printed edition of the Anglo-Saxon version of the Metres of Boethius is that of

Rawlinson, which was printed in Oxford in the year MDCXCVIII; and the only manuscript of this work, at present known to be in existence, is the transcript which Junius made from a Cottonian one, which was afterwards destroyed in the unfortunate fire when so many Cottonian MSS. fell a prey to the devouring element. The transcript is preserved among the Junian MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford; and the edition of Rawlinson merely professes to be a correct copy of it; and it certainly is extremely correct in this respect; for having carefully collated Rawlinson with the manuscript of Junius, I found so few and such trifling typographical errors, as to render it unnecessary to notice them. In the present edition I found it requisite to alter the reading of a few words; and as the manuscript of Junius was prior to Rawlinson's edition, the reference in the alteration of the reading, when it occurs, is made to it, and the alterations will all be found acknowledged in the notes.

The ancient Anglo-Saxon manuscript of Boethius in the Bodleian Library, merely contains the prose.

Although both Junius and Rawlinson are deserving of the highest praise for the correctness

of their readings, they are not entitled to the same for the accuracy of their metrical punctuation. In their days the principles of Saxon versification were scarcely known; and while one party saw, what they fancied was an elaborate system in imitation of the Greek and Latin metres, another party who could not discover this, concluded that there was no system at all. For the subsequent discoveries we are chiefly indebted to Rask. When, however, we consider the difficulties which men like Junius, Rawlinson, and Hickes, had to contend with, the errors which they committed ought to be forgotten in grateful admiration of what they actually accomplished.

Alliteration is now ascertained, beyond all doubt, to be the chief characteristic of Saxon verse; and this is also accompanied with a rythm which clearly distinguishes it from prose; but in many parts of these Metres, as they stand in Junius and Rawlinson, there is neither alliteration nor rythm; to say nothing of the obscurity which arises from this faulty collocation. It has, therefore, been my endeavour in this edition to restore the text to what I conceive to have been its original purity, by preserving the alliteration and rythm; and by this change in the punctuation,

the sense of passages which before was in many places doubtful, is become clear and obvious. This alteration, as it is merely a change in the punctuation without any variation in the original orthography, will not, I trust, be considered an unpardonable liberty. There is, as I have observed, no manuscript of the Metres of Boethius extant, besides a transcript of Junius; and as Junius has been convicted of faulty punctuation in a transcript which he made of Cædmon,* and as many passages in these Metres are totally devoid of all claim to verse as they stand in his copy, while the change which has been made in the present edition for the most part restores their poetical form, it is not too much to suppose that this work has also suffered from the inaccuracy of Junius. Rawlinson faithfully following him, of course preserved all his errors. The continuous lines in which the ancient MSS. are written, the verses being merely divided by a point, rendered inaccuracies like those here complained of highly probable.

The change in punctuation occurring very frequently, it would be tedious to remark upon

* Vide p. xiv. of Preface to Thorpe's edition of Cædmon; a work which cannot be too highly estimated by the Saxon student.

every case; the reader is, therefore, referred to Rawlinson's edition, if he question the correctness of the present text. As it has been my desire to present a pure and correct edition of the Saxon text, I hope those who differ with me in opinion will consider the difficulty as well as importance of the undertaking.

There are no accents in the Junian manuscript, and I have not introduced any into this volume, as I have great doubts of their being admissible, unless they occur in ancient MSS. Whenever this is the case, I acknowledge their great importance.

With regard to my translation, I fear exceptions will be taken to some parts of it. I have endeavoured to give a literal version, and at the same time to preserve in the translation a portion of the rythm which is found in the Saxon; and where failures exist, they arise rather from the difficulty of the passage, than from a want of diligence in making the translation correct.

For remarks on the general character of the Anglo-Saxon version of Boethius, I would refer the reader to the prose edition before mentioned, to which this volume is intended as a supplement. I beg to offer my sincere acknowledgments

to J. S. Cardale, Esq. and B. Thorpe, Esq. F. A. S. to whose friendship and assistance I am deeply indebted.

With these prefatory remarks the Metres of Boethius are presented to the public; and it is the Editor's earnest wish, that each succeeding publication of the remains of our early authors will stimulate the desire to rescue from the corroding hand of time these interesting relics of former ages.

THE METRES OF
BOETHIUS.



INTRODUCTION.

Ður Ælfred ur.
eald-yrpell neahte.
Lýning Þeft-rexna.
cpæft meldode.
leoð-pýnhta lýt.
Him pær lujt micel.
þæt he þioryrum leodum.
leoð yspelode.
monnum myrzen.
mýlice cƿiðar.
þy lær ælinge.
utadnipe.
yelſlincne recg.
þonne he yspelcer lýt.
gymð ƿon his ȝilpe.
Ic ƿeal giet ƿƿeacan.
ƿon on ƿitte.
polc-cuðne næð.
hæleþum recgean.
hlýte ye þe pille.

THUS Alfred to us
An ancient story related;
The King of the West-Saxons
Displayed *his* art,
5 *His* poetic skill.
To him was great desire,
That he to these nations
Should teach poetry,
The delight of men,
10 Various sayings;
Lest weariness
Should reject
The self-same speech.
But he thereby little
15 Cares for his own glory.
I will nevertheless speak,
Begin a song,
A discourse known to nations,
To men will speak,
20 Attend who will.



METRE I.

Hit pær geapa nu.
þætte Lötan eäytan.
of Scyðia.
fceldar læðdon.
þneate geþunzon.
þeod-lond monig.
jetton ruðpeajðer.
riðe-þeoda tpa.
Lötene rice.
geap-mælum peox.
hæfðan him gecýnde.
cýningar tpezen.
Ræðgðod and Alepic.
rice geþunzon.
Da pær ofer munþgiop.
monig atýhted.
Lota gýlperj full.
guðe gelýfted.
fölc-geþinnej.
þana hpearþode.

It was long ago,
That *the* eastern Goths
From Scythia,
Led *their* armies,
5 Oppressed with troops,
Many nations.
They established southward,
Two victorious nations ;
The kingdoms of the Goths
10 Yearly increased ;
They had of their own race
Two kings,
Rhadgast and Alaric,
Who obtained the supreme power.
15 Then was over *the* Alps
Many a Goth allured,
Full of arrogance,
Desirous of *the* conflict,
Of *the* battle-fray.
20 *The* banner waved

ſcip on ſcearfe.	Bright on <i>the</i> shaft;
ſceotend þohton.	Appeared shooting
Italia.	Italy
ealle ^a geſongan.	All <u>through</u> ,
lind-pigende.	25 <i>The</i> warriors with shields,
hiſelæſtan.	Heedless <i>of danger</i> ;
ſpua eſne ſnom muntgiop.	Even from the Alps,
oð þone mæpan peapoð.	To that illustrious shore,
þær Sicilia.	Where Sicily
ſæ-ſtreamum	30 In the sea streams,
in eglond micel.	A mighty island nation
eþel mænjað.	Is celebrated.
Da pær Romana.	Then was <i>the</i> empire
pice geþunnen.	Of <i>the</i> Romans conquered,
abrocen buþga cýrt.	35 The city's splendour spoiled.
beadu-pincum pær.	By <i>the</i> soldiers was
Rom geþýmed.	Rome laid open;
Rædgot and Alepic.	Rhadgast and Alaric
ſoron on þæt pæſten.	Went into the citadel;
ſleah Laſeſe. ^b	40 Cæſar fled
mid þam æþelingum.	With the princes
ut on Græcar.	Out to the Greeks. [not
Ne meahte þa ſeo pea laſ.	Then the miserable remnant could
piſe ſorſtandan.	Withſtand in battle,
Lotan mid guðe.	45 <i>The</i> Goths in <i>the</i> conflict;
gio monna geſtþion.	The former wealth of men

* M S. ealla.

^b Laſeſe in these metres simply denotes the highest regal power.

realdon unpillum.
eþel peanðaþ.
halige aþar.
þær geþærþeþer paa.
ðeah þær mago-þinca.
mod mid Eþecum.
gj; hi leod-þruman.
lætæn doþten.
Stod þraze on þam.
þeod þær geþunnen.
þintna mænigo.
oð þær pýnd geþraþ.
þær þe Þeodric.
þegnar and eoplær.
hefan rceoldan.
þær je Þeþetema,
Eþiþte geþnoðen.
cýning relja onþeng.
fulluht þeapum.
Fægnodon ealle.
Rompagna beaþn.
and him pecene to.
þniþer pilnedon.
He him ræfte geher.
þær hý ealð-þihta.
ælceþ moþten.
pýnþe geþunigen.
on þærne pelegan hýnig.
þendan God puolðe.

Unwillingly gave up
The guardians of *their* country :
Sacred oaths *were broken* :
50 Everywhere was woe.
Yet was *the* mind
Of *the* citizens with *the* Greeks
If they leaders
Dared to follow.
55 *The* course of time in which
The people were subdued,
Was many a winter ;
Until that fate ordained,
That Theodoric,
60 Thanes and earls
Should obey.
The chieftain was
Dedicated to Christ ;
The king himself received
65 *The* rite of baptism.
The children of *the* Romans
All rejoiced,
And with him straight
Desired peace.
70 He to them firmly promised,
That they of each
Of their ancient rights,
Should remain possessed,
In that wealthy city,
75 While God would,

þæt he Groena gepeald.
 agan mojte. That he *the* power of the Goths
 Should have.

He þæt eall aleaz.
 pær þæm æbelinge. He all that retracted ;
 To the prince

Apianer.
 gedpola leofne. 80 The Arian heresy
 bonne Dnihtne^r æ. Was more pleasing,
 Than *the* law of *the* Lord.

Het Iohanne^r. He commanded John,
 godne Papan. The good pope,

heafde beheapon.
 næg þ hæplic dæd. 85 To be beheaded :
 eac þam pær unrim. That was not a laudable deed ;
 oðne^r maner. Besides, there was countless
 Wickedness of other kinds,
 þ re Grota ymeneðe. Which the Goth perpetrated,

godna gehpilcum.
 Da pær nica^r yum. 90 *Against* every one of *the* good.
 on Rome býnig.
 ahefen ñepetoga.
 hlaþorðe leof. Then was a certain noble,
 þenden Lyneystole.
 Eneacay pioldon. In Rome's city,
 ðæt pær nihtpij ninc.
 pær^c mid Rompajum.
 yinc-geofa yella. Appointed consul,
 ylðjan longe he. Dear to *his* lord,

pær yon peouulðe piſ. 95 While *the* Greeks
 Possessed *the* metropolis.
 He was a righteous man.
 He was among the Romans
 A bestower of gifts.

100 Long since he
 Was wise in worldly matters,

^c MS. næg. This must have been an error of the scribe, as Boethius had the reputation of great liberality. See Gibbon's Decline and Fall, chap. 39.

þeoŋð-mýnþa georþn.

beorþn boca g leap.

Boſtūr.

þe hæle hatte.

þe þone hlijan geþah.^a

þær him on gemynde.

mæla gehpilce.

þyel and eðrit.

þæt him elþeodze.

kýningas cýðdon.

pær on Gr̄eacas hold.

gemynde þapa aja.

and eald-rihta.

þe hir elðpan.

mid him ahton longe.

lufan and liþra.

Angan þa lixtum ymbe.

þencean þeaplice.

hu he þidej meahte.

Gr̄eacas onceppan.

þæt je Caſere.

eft anpald oþer hi.

agan moyte.

rende æpend-geppit.

Desirous of glory,

A man skilled in books,

Boethius,

105 The man was called :

He the report heard.

He kept in mind,

Continually,

The evil and contumely,

110 That to them,

Foreign kings had spoken.

He was to the Greeks faithful,

He remembered the honours,

And ancient rights,

115 Which his ancestors

With them long possessed,

The love and favour.

He then began cautiously,

Carefully to meditate,

120 How he then might

Bring over the Greeks ;

That the Cæsar,

Again power over them

Might obtain.

125 He sent letters

^a geþah is not rendered according to the usual translation ; but the context required the sense here given : perhaps Alfred used the word figuratively.

ealb-hlaſorðum.
dezelice.
and hi ƿor Drihtne bæd.
ealdum ƿneopum.
þæt hi æft to him.
comen on þa ceartƿe.
lete ƿneca ƿitan.
næðan Romƿanum.
nihter ƿyrðe.
lete þone leodƿcipe
Ða þa lare onȝeat.
Ðeodƿic Amulinc.
and þone ƿezn oƿenfenz.
heht ƿæſtlice.
polc-geſiþar.
healðon þone hepe-ƿinc.^o
pær him hƿeoh ƿeſa.
ege ƿnom þam eople.
he hine inne.
heht on capcepne.
clurcƿen belucan.
Ða pær mod-ƿera.
mīclum ȝedƿefed.
Boetiur.
bƿeac longe æn.
plencea undƿ polcnum.

To *the* ancient lords,
Secretly :
And them by the Lord prayed,
By *their* former troth,
130 That they again to him,
Would come into the city ;
He would let the Greek nobles
Decree to the Romans,
According to law. [people.
135 *He* would give permission to the
Then discovered the design
Theodoric the Amuling,
And seized the thane ;
He commanded his nobles,
140 Firmly to hold
The consul.
His mind was troubled
With fear of the earl ;
He commanded *them*
145 To lock him
In a prison cell.
Then was *his* mind
Greatly troubled ;
Boethius
150 Long before enjoyed,
Splendour under *the* clouds,

^o MS. hepeƿine.

he þy þýr meahte.
þohan þa þnaze.
þa hio ȝpa þeanl becom.
þær þa oþmod eopl.
ape ne pendē.
ne on þam færtene.
þrofþe gemunde.
ac he neopol aþpeahht.
niþer of dune.
þeol on þa ȝlope.
þela ƿorða ȝppæc.
þorþoht þeaple.
ne pendē þonan æfne.
cuman of þæm clammum. 165
cleopode to Dnihtne.
ȝeompan ȝtemne.
ȝyðdode þur::

He the worse could
Endure the course of events,
When it so heavy came.
155 Then was *the* earl dejected,
He thought not of honour,
Nor in that fastness,
Cared for consolation ;
But he stretched *himself*
160 Down prostrate below ;
He fell on the floor,
And uttered many words,
Greatly despairing :
Nor thought from thence ever
165 To come from those fetters ;
He cried to *the* Lord,
With mournful voice,
And thus sung.

METRE II.¹

þpæt ic hioða ƿela.
luyðlice geo.
ȝanc on ȝælum.

BEHOLD I many lays,
With delight formerly,
Sung in *my* prosperity ;

¹ Boet. Lib. i. Metrum i.Carmina qui quondam studio florente peregi, &c.
The metres of Boethius, strictly speaking, begin here.

nu *ȝeal* *ȝioȝende.* Now shall I sorrowing,
 pope *ȝepȝed.* 5 Weighed down with weeping,
ȝnecc ea *ȝiomor.* A sad wretch,
ȝingan *ȝaȝ-cpidaȝ.* Sing mournful songs !
 Me *ȝioȝ* *ȝicctung* *haȝað.* Me this sighing has
 aȝaled *ȝer* *ȝeocra.* Hindered,—this sobbing,
 10 *ȝ ic* *ȝa* *ȝed* *ne* *mæȝ.* That songs I cannot
ȝeȝegean *ȝpa* *ȝæȝne.* So fair compose ;
 ȝeah *ic* *ȝela* *ȝio* *ȝa.* Though I formerly many
ȝette *ȝoð-cpida.* True maxims arranged,
 ȝonne *ic* *on* *ȝælum* *pær.* When I was in prosperity.
 Oft *ic* *nu* *miȝcynne.* 15 Oft I now wander
 cuðe *ȝppæce.* From well-known speech,
 and ȝeah uncuðne. And yet more unknown
 ær *ȝpilum* *ȝond.* Formerly found.
 me *ȝaȝ* *ȝoȝuld* *ȝælða.* This world's goods
 ȝel *ȝpæȝ^s* *blindne.* 20 Me, well nigh blinded,
 on *ȝiȝ* *dimme* *hol.* Into this gloomy hole,
 ȝýrne *ȝoplæðdon.* Foolish conducted ;
 and me *ȝa* *beȝypton.* And me then deprived
 næðer and *ȝnoȝne.* Of counsel and consolation,
 ȝon *heopa* *unȝheopum.* 25 Through their perfidy.
 ȝe *ic* *him* *ȝyne* *betȝt.* When I would ever best
 ȝupian *ȝceolde.* Rely upon them,
 hi me *ȝopen don.* They on me turned
heopa *bacu* *hiteȝe.* Their bitter backs,

and heora bliþre ȝnom. 30 And their bliss from *me* took.
 Fofhƿam polðe ȝe. Wherefore would ye,
 peoruld ȝrýnd mine. My worldly friends,
 ȝecȝan oðþe ȝingan. Declare or sing,
 þæt ic ȝerællic mon. That I a happy man
 ƿærne on peorulðe. 35 Was in *the* world?
 ne ȝýnt þa poðð ȝoð. These are not true words,
 nu þa ȝerælþa ne magon. Since prosperity may not
 ȝimle ȝepunigan.^h always remain.

METRE III.¹

Æala on hu ȝrimum. ALAS! in how grim,
 and hu ȝrundlearȝum. And how bottomless
 ȝeaðe ȝprinceð. A gulf labours
 þæt ȝpeorcende mod. The darkling mind,
 þonne hit þa ȝtþongan. 5 When it the strong
 ȝtopmar beatað. Storms lash,
 peoruld-þiȝunga. Of worldly cares:
 þonne hit pinnende. When it *thus* contending,
 hiȝ aȝen leoht. Its proper light
 an ȝoplæteð. 10 Once forsakes,

^h These sentiments are similar to those expressed by Solon in his discourse with Croesus, as described by Herodotus.

¹ Boet. Lib. i. Metrum ii.
 Heu, quam præcipiti mersa profundo, &c.

and mid uua forgit.
 þone ecan geþean.
 þringð on þa þiortno.
 þijre populde.
 forðum geþpended.
 ypa iþ þiſsum nu.
 mode gelumpen.
 nu hit mage ne pat.
 fori Eode goder.
 buton gnorunze.
 fremðre populde.
 him iþ fñorþe þearf.

And in woe forgets
 The everlasting joy,
 And rushes into the darkness
 Of this world,
 15 Afflicted with cares !
 Thus has it now befallen
 This *my* mind ;
 Now it no more knows
 Of good for God,
 20 But lamentations,
 For *the* external world :
 To it is need of comfort.

METRE IV.*

Æala þu rciippend.
 rciirja tungla.
 hefonej and eoþan.
 þu on heah-retle.
 ecum ricraft.
 and þu ealne hraðe.
 hefon ýmbhpeanþeft.
 and þu h þine halige miht.
 tunglu genedeft.

O, thou Creator
 Of the bright stars,
 Of heaven and earth ;
 Thou on thy throne
 5 Eternal reignest :
 And thou swiftly all
 The heaven turnest round ;
 And by thy holy power,
 The stars compellest,

* Boet. Lib. i. Met. v. O stelliferi conditor orbis, &c.

þæt hi þe to heþað.
þyrlce ƿeo ƿunne.
þƿeaptƿa nihta.
þiortƿo aðræfceð,
þuñh þine meht.
blacum leohte.
beophte ƿteorƿan.
mona ȝemetȝað.
þuñh þinna meahta ƿped.
hpilum eac þa ƿunnan.
rīney beþeaðað.
beophtan leohter.
þonne hit ȝebýrigan mæg.
þæt ƿpa geneahyne.
neðe peorþað.
ƿpelce þone mæpan.
mōrȝenƿteorƿan.
þe pe oðne naman.
æfengyteorƿa.
nemnan heþað.
þu geneðeȝt þone.
þæt he þæne ƿunnan.
ƿið bepitȝe.

10 That they thee obey !
Thus the sun
Of *the* swart nights
The darkness dispels,
Through thy power.
15 With pallid light
The bright stars
The moon tempers,
Through the effect of thy power:
Sometimes also the sun,
20 Of her¹ bright light
Bereaves,
When it may happen
That so near
He necessarily is.
25 Also the fair
Morning star,
That we by another name,
Evening star
Hear called ;
30 Thou compellest him,
That he the sun's
Path keeps,

¹ In many of the Asiatic, and in all the ancient northern languages of Europe, the gender of the sun is feminine, and that of the moon is masculine ; and this peculiarity is to be met with in Shakspeare. See First Part of Henry the Fourth, Act i. Scene 2. See also Diversions of Purley, Taylor's Edition, vol. i. p. 53.

ȝeaþa ȝehpelce.	Every year;
he ȝongan ȝceal.	He shall go,
beþofan ȝepan.	35 Shall advance before.
hpæt þu ȝæðer ƿeþceþt.	Behold, thou O Father, makest
ȝumup-lange ȝaðar.	Summer long days,
ȝpriðe hate.	Very hot:
þæm ƿinter-ȝaðum.	To winter days
þundrhum ȝceoþta.	40 Wondrously short
tiða ȝetiohhæjt.	Times appointest!
Ðu ȝæm ȝneopum ȝeleþt.	Thou to the trees givest
ȝuðan and ƿeþtan.	5 The south and west <i>wind</i> ;
þa ær ȝe ȝpeaþta ȝtopm.	Which before the black storms
noðan and eastran.	45 North and east
benumen hærde.	Had deprived
leaþa ȝehpelcer.	Of every leaf,
þuñh þone laðnan ƿind.	Through the more hostile wind.
Èala hpæt on eorðan.	Behold on earth,
ealla ȝerþeaþta.	50 All creatures
hýnað þinre hære.	Obey thy command;
ðoð on heofonum ȝpa ȝome.	And do in heaven the same,
mode and mægne.	With mind and might;
butan men anum.	But man alone,
ȝe pið þinum ƿillan.	55 Who against thy will
þýnced օftoþt.	Oftenest worketh.
Yella þu eca.	O thou eternal,
and þu almihtiga.	And thou almighty,
ealþa ȝerþeaþta.	Of all created beings,
ȝceppend and neccend.	60 Maker and ruler,
ana þinum eaþum.	Spare thy wretched.

eorþan tuðne.
 monna cýnne.
 þurh þinna mehta yped.
 Hƿi þu ece Ȥod.
 æfne polðe.
 þæt ƿio ƿýrð on ȝepill.
 pendan ȝceolðe.
 ȳþlum monnum.
 ealleſ ƿra ƿrīðe.
 hio ful oft ƿeƿeð.
 unȝýlðezum.
 Ȝittað ȳfele men.
 ȝionð eorð-ƿicu.
 on heah-ȝetlum.
 halige þniccað.
 undeſ heora ƿotum.
 ƿínum uncuð.
 hƿi ƿio ƿýrð ƿra po.
 pendan ȝceolðe.
 ƿpa ƿint ȝehýðe.
 hej on ƿorulðe.
 ȝeond buþga ƿela.
 beorhte ƿræftaſ.
 Unrihtþyre.
 eallum ƿidum.
 habbað on ƿorþe.
 þa þe him ƿindon.
 ƿihter ƿyrjan.
 ƿiceſ ƿýrðjan.

Earth-born progeny,
 Mankind,
 Through the effect of thy power !
 65 Why, eternal God,
 Ever wouldest thou,
 That fortune at pleasure,
 Should incline
 To evil men,
 70 Altogether so much ?
 She full oft injures
The guiltless.
 Wicked men sit
 In earthly kingdoms,
 75 On thrones ;
The saints *they* tread
 Under their feet.
 To men *it is* unknown,
 Why fortune so crookedly
 80 Should move.
 Thus are concealed,
 Here in *the* world,
 In many cities,
 Bright virtues.
 85 Unrighteous *men*,
 At all times,
 Hold in derision,
 Those that to them are
 Superior in justice,
 90 More worthy of command.

Bið þe leave lot.	The false craftiness is
lange hpile.	Long while
beppugen mid þpencum.	Concealed by frauds.
Nu on populde hep.	Now here in the world,
monnum ne ðeþiað.	95 On men inflict no injury,
mane aþar.	Wicked oaths.
Liþ þu nu paldend ne pilt.	If thou now, O Ruler, wilt not
þiþde rþeopan.	Fortune control,
ac on rþelf-pille.	But with self-will
rþigan lateþt.	100 Permittest <i>her</i> to rush;
þonne ic pat þæt te pile.	Then I know that worldly
populð-men tþeogan.	Men will doubt,
geond folðan-rþeacat.	Through the earth,
buton þea ane.	Except a few alone.
Éala min Dñyhten.	105 O my Lord,
þu þe ealle oþerþiþt.	Thou that over-seest
populde gerþeacpta.	All worldly creatures,
þlit nu on moncýn.	Look now on mankind,
mildum eagum.	With placid eyes;
nu hi on monegum hep.	110 Now they here in many
populde ýþum.	Worldly waves,
þýnnað and þýncað.	Strive and labour,
eajme eorð-pajan.	Miserable inhabitants of earth,
aþa him nu þa.	Spare them now therefore !

METRE V.[■]

Ðu meaht be þærne runnan. Thou mayest by the sun,
 yþeotole geþencean. Clearly perceive,
 and be æghpelcum. And by every
 oðrum yþeoðran. Other star,
 þaða þe æfter þuñgum. 5 Of those which through cities
 beoþhtoþt yþineð. Brightest shine ;
 Eni hūm pan yþope. If before them a dark
 polcen hangað. Cloud hang,
 ne mægen hi yþa leohtne. They cannot so light
 leoman anyendan. 10 A ray send forth,
 æri ye þicca myt. Until the thick mist
 þinna peorðe. Becomes thinner.
 Spas oft ymylte yæ. So oft the smooth sea
 yuþerne yind. Green, transparent as glass,
 yþaðe glaþ-hluðne. 15 The southern wind
 yþimme geðnefeð. Fierce disturbs :
 þonne hie gemengað. When they are mingled,
 micla yþta. Great storms
 onhþejað hþon-meþe. 20 Stir up the sea ;
 hþioh bið þonne. Then rough becomes

[■] Boet. Lib. i. Met. vii. Nubibus atris, &c.

[■] Literally, whale pond.

reo þe ær glaðu.
 on-riene pær.
 Spa oft æsþrinze.
 utapealleð.
 of clife hapum.
 col and hlutor.
 and gepechice.
 rihte flopeð.
 ipneð rið hir eaðer.
 oð him on innan felð.
 munter mægen-þtan.
 and him on miðan ȝeligeð.
 atpendlod of þam toppe.
 he on tu ȝiðhan.
 tofcaðen rýð.
 ȝcij bið ȝednefed.
 bujna ȝebonden.
 broc bið onpendeð.
 of hir riht ȝyne.
 ȝýbum toflopen.
 ȝpa nu þa þioȝtno.
 þinre heoptan yllað.
 minre leohtan.
 lape riðtonðan.
 and þin mod-ȝeþonc.
 miclum ȝednefan.
 Ac ȝif þu nu pilnart.
 þæt þu pel mæze.
 þæt ȝoðe leoht.

That which before
 Was pleasaut to the sight.
 So often a fountain
 Springs out
 25 Of a hoar cliff,
 Cool and clear,
 And diffusedly
 Flows straight along,
 Runs to its own place ;
 30 Until into it falls
 A huge stone *from the* mountain,
 And in *the* middle of it lies,
 Rolled from the high rock.
 It into two thence
 35 Is divided,
The clear stream polluted,
 Becomes troubled ;
The brook is turned aside,
 From its right course,
 40 Flowing in rills.
 So now the darkness
 Of thine heart wishes
 My enlightened doctrine
 To withstand :
 45 And thy mind's thoughts
 Greatly to trouble.
 But if thou now desirest,
 Which thou well mayest,
 The true light,

ypeotole oncnapan. 50 Clearly to understand,
 leohte geleasan. *The* pure faith;
 þu ȝoplætan ȝealt. Thou shalt renounce
 idle oþen-ȝælþa. Vain superfluities,
 unnytne ȝeþean. Unprofitable glory;
 þu ȝealt eac ȝrelne ege. 55 Thou shalt also evil fear
 an-ȝoplætan. Dismiss,
 populð-eaþroða. Worldly troubles;
 ne moþ þu ƿeran ƿor þæm. Nor must thou be through them
 ealler to oþmod. Altogether dejected.
 ne þu þe æfne ne læt. 60 Nor do thou ever let
 plenca ȝepæcan. Prosperity excite thee,
 þe læg þu ƿeorðe ƿor him. Lest thou through it shouldst be
 mid oþen-mettum. With arrogance
 eft ȝercended. Again corrupted,
 and to upahæfen. 65 And too much lifted up
 ƿor oþerogum. With prosperous,
 ƿorulð-ȝeþælþum. Worldly goods.
 Ne eft to paclice. Nor again too weakly
 ȝeoþtƿeope. Despair
 ænige ȝode. 70 Of any good:
 þonne þe ƿor populðe. When in *the* world
 ƿiþeþreapða mæjt.° Adverse things
 þinga þneage. Thee most afflict;
 and þu þe ȝelcum. And thou thyself
 ȝriþoþt onyitte. 75 Chiefly weighest down.
 ƿorþæm ȝimle bið. For always is

° MS. mæjt.

je mod-þeſa.	The mind
miclum gebunden mid.	Greatly bound with
geðþeſneſſe.	Trouble :
gūf hine ðieccean mot.	80 If either of these evils
þijra ýpla hƿæþer.	Can torment it,
innan ȝpencan.	Or afflict within.
þorþæm þa tƿegeñ tƿegan.	Because the two vexations
teoð to ȝomne.	Draw together
þið hæt mod ƿorðan.	85 Before the mind
miȝter ðpoleman.	A chaos of darkness ;
hæt hit ȝeo ece ne mot.	That on it the eternal sun cannot
hinan geond ȝcinan. [miȝtum Hence shine	
ȝunne ȝor hæm ȝpeaþtum	For the swart mists,
ær hæm hi ȝerþiðnað peorþen.	Until they are subdued.

METRE VI.^r

Da je ȝiȝdom eft.	THEN Wisdom again
ƿorð-horð onleac.	His treasury of words unlocked,
ȝang ȝoð-cpðað.	Sung <i>various</i> maxims,
and þur ȝelpa cpæð.	And thus expressed himself.
Donne ȝio ȝunne.	5 When the sun
ȝpeotoloȝt ȝcineð.	Clearest shines,
hadþoȝt of heþone.	Serenest in the heaven ;
hƿærðe bioð aþiȝtrod.	Quickly are obscured

^r Boet. Lib. ii. Met. iii. Cum polo Phœbus roseis quadrigis, &c.

calle orij eorjan. Over the earth
 oðne yteorjan. 10 All other stars :
 fórhæm hiofa bıhtu ne brð. Because their brightness is not
 auht [bıhtneyye.]⁴ [Brightness] at all,
 to gerettane. Compared with
 pið þærne sunnan leoht. The sun's light.
 Donne ymolte blæþ. 15 When mild blows
 ryðan and yeytan pind. The south and western wind,
 undēr polcnum. Under the clouds ;
 þonne peaxeð hraðe. Then quickly grow
 yeldeþ bloþman. The flowers of the field,
 þægen þæt hi moton. 20 Joyful that they may.
 Ac ye ytearca ytorum. But the stark storm,
 þonne he ytrong cymð. When it strong comes,
 noþjan and eaftan. From north and east,
 he genimeð hraðe. It quickly takes away
 þærne noran plite. 25 The beauty of the rose.
 And eac þa þuman yæ. And also the northern storm
 noþþejne yyt. Constrained by necessity,
 nedē gebæðeð. That it is strongly agitated,
 þæt hio ytrange geond ytyneð. Lashes the spacious sea
 on ytaþu beateð. 30 Against the shore.
 Eala þ on eorjan. Alas ! that on earth,
 auht fæytlicer. Aught of permanent
 peoncer on populde. Work in the world,
 ne punað æfre. Does not ever remain !

⁴ Both the alliteration and sense shew that a word has been omitted in the MS. and I have supplied the deficiency by inserting bıhtneyye.

METRE VII.^r

Ða ongon je Þiðom.
hij ȝepunan ȝylȝan.
ȝlio-porðum ȝol.
ȝýð æt' ȝpelle.
ȝong ȝoð-cpiða.
ȝumne þa zeta.
Lpæð he ne heþde.
þæt on heanne^t munt.
monna ænig.
meahte æfettan.
healle hrof-færte.
Ne þearf eac hæleþa nan.
penan þær peorcer.
þæt he Þiðom mæȝe.
þið oþeñmetta.
æfne ȝementan.
Heþdeſ þu æfne.
þæt te ænig mon.
on ȝond beorȝar.
æfettan meahte.

THEN began Wisdom
His wont to follow ;
He sung in metre,
A lay in *his* discourse ;
5 *And* uttered certain
Maxims again.
He said he never heard,
That on a high mountain,
Any one of men
10 Could place
A roof-fast hall.
Nor need moreover any man,
To think of this work,
That he may wisdom
15 With sensuality
Ever mingle.
Hearest thou ever,
That any man
On sand hills
20 Could set

^r Boet. Lib. ii. Met. iv. Quisquis volet perennem, &c.

^t MS. æjt.

¹ MS. heane.

pærte healle.

Ne mæg eac ƿiƿa nan.
ƿiƿdom tūmbraṇ.

þær þær ƿoruld-ȝitjungz.
beorȝ oƿerþræðeð.

baƿu ƿond ƿillað.

ƿen ƿorƿelȝan.

Spa ƿeð ƿicra nu.

ȝrunðleaf ȝitjung.

ȝilpej and æhta.

ȝedƿinceð to ðryggum.

ðneorȝendne pelan.

and ƿeah þær ƿeaƿjan ne bið.
þuƿjt aceleð.

Ne mæg hæleþa ȝehƿæm.
hūj on munte.

lange ȝelæjtan.

ƿorþæm him lungne on.

ȝpiƿt ƿind ȝpapeð.

Ne bið ƿond ƿon ma.

ƿið micelne ƿen.

manna ængum.

hūjej hūðe.

ac hit hneorjan ƿile.

ƿigan ƿond æftær ƿene.

Spa bið anƿa ȝehƿæj.

monna mod-ƿefan.

miclum aƿeȝede.

oƿ hioƿa ȝtede ȝtýƿede.

A firm hall?

Nor can moreover any man
Establish wisdom,

Where worldly covetousness
25 Overspreads *the* hill.

The bare sand desires
To swallow up the rain.

So does now of the wealthy
The bottomless avarice

30 Of glory and possessions,
Drink to *the* dregs
Perishable wealth:

and ƿeah þær ƿeaƿjan ne bið.
And yet of this desire
þuƿjt allayed.

Ne mæg hæleþa ȝehƿæm.
35 Nor may to any man,

hūj on munte
A house on a mountain
Long remain;

For on it quickly

ȝelæjtan.

40 Nor is sand the better,
Against much rain,

To any one of men,

Protector of *his* house;
But it will fall,

45 The sand sink after rain.

So are the minds

Of every one of men,

Greatly agitated,

From their place moved,

þonne he ȝtþong ðreced. 50 When them the strong wind
 ƿind undær polcnum. Of worldly troubles,
 ƿoruld-eaþroða. Under the clouds afflicts :
 oððe hi^u eft ƿe neða. Or them again the violent
 ƿen onhreðeð. Rain excites
 ȝumer ȝymbhogan. 55 Of some anxiety,
 unȝemet ȝemen. Immoderate care.
 Ac ƿe þe þa ecan. But he who will possess
 aȝan pille. *The* eternal,
 ȝoðan ȝerælða. True felicities,
 he ȝreal ȝriððe ȝhon. 60 He must quickly fly
 þiȝre ƿoruldæ ƿlite. This world's splendour ;
 ƿyrce him ȝiðhan. *And* then let him make
 hīȝ modeȝ hūȝ. His mind's house,
 þær he mæȝe ȝindan. Where he may find
 eaðmetta ȝtan. 65 *The* rock of humility,
 unȝemetþæȝtne.^w *The* immense
 ȝlund-peal ȝearone. Foundation prepared :
 ƿe to-ȝlidan ne þeaȝj. It need not slip,
 þeah hit ƿecȝe ƿind. Though it the wind agitate,
 ƿoruld-eaþroða. 70 Of worldly troubles,
 oððe ȝymbhogena. Or of anxieties,
 oȝmete ƿen. *The* immoderate rain.
 ȝoȝbæm on þær ðene. For in the valley
 Drihthen ȝelȝa. Of humility,
 þaða eaðmetta. 75 *The* Lord himself

^w MS. hit.

MS. unȝ metþæȝtne.

eaſdꝫæſt puniſað.
 þær ſe ƿiſdom á.
 punað on ȝemýndum.
 þoſþon oþroþg hif.
 ealniz læðað.
 populð-men ƿiſe.
 buton ƿendinze.
 þonne he eall þoþrihð.
 eorðlicu ȝooð.
 and eac þaſa ȝrela.
 oþroþh punað.
 hopað to þam ecum.
 þe þær æſteþ cumað.
 hine þonne ægþronan.
 ælmihtig Good.
 ȝingallice.
 ȝimle gehealdeð.
 anƿuniȝendone.
 hiſ aȝenum.
 modeſ geſelþum.
 þuſh metodeſ ȝiſe.
 þeah hine ſe ƿind.
 populð-eaƿroþa.
 ȝriðe ȝpence.
 and hine ȝingale.
 ȝemen ȝæle.
 þonne him ȝrimme on.
 populð-ȝaelþa ƿind.

Permanently dwells.
 There Wisdom ever
 Remains in minds.
 Therefore a secure life
 80 Always lead
 Wise men in the world,
 Without change,
 When they despise
 All earthly goods ;
 85 And also of evils
 Remain careless ;
 They hope for the eternal *things*
 Which thereafter shall come.
 Him, then, everywhere,
 90 Almighty God
 Perpetually,
 Ever keeps,
 Dwelling alone,
 In *the* proper happiness
 95 Of his mind,
 By *the* Creator's gift :
 Though him the wind
 Of worldly troubles
 Greatly disturbs,
 100 And him perpetual
 Cares impede ;
 When on him fiercely,
 The dark wind blows

þraðe blapeð.
þeah þe hine ealneȝ.
re ýmbhoga þýrja.
þoruld-ȝælþa.
þraðe ȝpecce.

Of worldly goods ;
105 *And though him always,*
The anxious care
Of these worldly goods
Severely afflicts.

METRE V.^x

Sona ȝra re ȝiðom.
þaȝ poȝð hæȝðe.
ȝpetole aƿeahте.
he þa ȝiðhan onȝan.
ȝingan ȝoð-cpiðaȝ.
and þur ȝelpa ȝpæð.
Hƿæt ȝio ȝoñme elð.
ȝold-buendum.
ȝeond eorðhan-ȝceat.
æȝhpam ðohte.
þa þa anja ȝehpæm.
on eorð-pæȝtmum.
ȝenoh þuhte.
nir hit nu þa ȝpelc.
næpon þa ȝeond ȝeoñulðe. 15 Then through the world were not

As soon as Wisdom
These words had
Plainly uttered,
He then afterwards began
5 To sing maxims,
And thus expressed himself.
How was the first age
To the inhabitants
Throughout the earth,
10 To each one happy !
When to every one
In *the* earth's fruits
Abundance appeared :
It is not so now.

^x Boet. Lib. ii. Met. v. Felix nimium prior ætas, &c.

ƿelige hamar.
 ne miſlice.
 mettar ne ðrincar.
 ne hi þapa hñægla.
 hūju ne ȝemdon.
 þe nu ðriht-ȝuman.
 ðiopoſt lætað.
 ȝorþæm hiofa nænig.
 næf þa ȝieta.
 ne hi ne ȝerapon.
 ȝund-buende.
 ne ȝmbutan hi.
 apef ne hefdon.
 hƿæt hi ȝiuenlurta.
 ȝnecene ƿæfon.
 buton ȝpa hi meahton.
 ȝemetlicoſt.
 þa ȝecynd began.
 þe him Ȣriȝt ȝercep.
 and hi æne on dæge.
 æton ȝymle.
 on æfen-tid.
 eorþan ƿæſtmar.
 ƿuðer and ƿyrta.
 naller ƿin ðruncion.
 ȝciƿi of ȝteape.
 næf þa ȝealca nan.
 þe mete oððe ðrinc.

Rich houses,
 Nor various
 Meats and drink.
 Nor did they at all care about
 20 The ornaments,
 Which now the chiefs
 Most dearly esteem ;
 For of them none
 As yet existed.
 25 Nor did sailors
 Ever see them,
 Nor about them
 Anywhere hear.
 Moreover they of luxuries
 30 Were desirous,
 Only as they might
 Most moderately
 The nature obey,
 Which for them Christ created.
 35 And they once in *the* day
 Always ate,
 At even-tide,
 Earth's fruits,
 Of *the* tree and of herbs.
 40 No wine they drank
 Pure from *the* cup ;
 There was no servant
 Who meats or drink

mæn̄gan cuðe.	Knew how to mingle,
pæteŋ pið hunige.	45 —Water with honey.
ne heopa pæða þon ma.	Nor any more their garments
þiołoce ȝiopian.	To sew with silk :
ne hi ȝiaþo-cþæjtum.	Nor with skilful arts
ȝodþeb ȝiþedon.	Did they prepare <i>the</i> purple.
ne hi ȝimpeced. ^y	50 Nor did they palaces
jetton ȝeapolicē.	Artfully construct.
ac hi ȝimle him.	But they ever,
eallum t̄idum.	At all times,
ute ȝlepon.	Slept out,
unden beam-ȝceade.	55 Under the tree-shade.
ðnuncon bunnan pæteŋ.	They drank water of the brook,
calde pellan.	Of the cold fountain.
næn̄ig ceþa ne ȝeah.	No merchant saw
oþeŋ eap-ȝeblonð.	Over the sea,
ellenðne peapod.	60 A foreign shore ;
ne huþu ȝymb ȝcip-heþgar.	Nor about fleets at all
ȝæ-tiþcay ne heþdon.	Ploughing the seas heard <i>they</i> :
ne ȝunþum ȝifia nan.	Nor moreover did any man
ȝymb ȝeþeoht ȝpprecan.	About fights <i>hear</i> speak.
nær þeþ eorðe beþmiten	65 This earth was not polluted
apeŋ þa ȝeta.	Anywhere yet
beonner blode.	With <i>the</i> blood of man.

^y Lye having translated peced domus, and jund-peced marina domus, sc. arca, I have rendered ȝimpeced palaces. The sense of the passage precludes the rendering of Lye, as a noun is evidently required.

þe hi ne^z bill-puðe. Then they no bloody steel,
 ne þuñþum pundne ƿej. Nor even a wounded man,
 peoruld-buendæ. 70 (*The inhabitants of earth*)
 geþapan undæj runnan. Beheld under *the sun*.
 nænig riðþan ƿær. No one afterwards would have been
 peorð on peorulde. Honoured in the world,
 gif mon hir pillan ongeat. If they had discovered
 yfelne mid elðum. 75 His evil will of old : [all.
 he ƿær ægþræm lað. He would have been loathsome to
 Eala þær^a hit puðe. O that it might be !
 oððe polde God. Or that God would,
 þær on eorþan nu. That on earth now,
 uþra tida. 80 In our times,
 geond þær riðan peoruld. Through the wide world,
 ƿær en ægþræp^b ƿpelce. *They* were everywhere such,
 undæj runnan. Under the sun !
 Ac hit is ræmje nu. But it is worse now,
 þær þe or gitjunc haðað. 85 That this covetousness has
 gumena gehpelcer. Of every man,
 mod ameñned. *The* mind corrupted :
 þær he manan ne pecð. That he is reckless of *other things* :
 ac hit on pitte. But it in his mind
 peallende býnnð. 90 Raging burns,
 efnær ƿio gitjungz. Even the covetousness
 þe nænne ȝrunð haðað. Which has no bottom ;

▪ MS. hine.

▪ MS. þær.

▪ MS. ægþræj.

ȣpeajte ȣpæreð.
 ȣumej on lice.
 eȝne þam munte.
 þe nu monna beajn.
 Etne hatað.
 ȣe on ȝglondæ,
 Sicilia.
 ȣpeple býrneð.
 þæt mon helle ȣýn.
 hateð ƿide
 ȝorþæm hit ȝimle bið.
 ȝin-býnnendæ.
 and ȝimbutan hit.
 oðna ȣtopa.
 blate ȝorþærnð.
 bítewan leze.
 ȣala hƿæt ȣe ȝorða.
 ȝeoh-ȝitȝere.
 ƿære on ƿoruldæ.
 ȣe þarf ƿorȝ-ȝteday.
 ȝnorȝ æftær golde.
 and æftær ȝim-cýnnum.
 hƿæt he ȝpecnu ȝeȝtƿeon.
 ȝunde mænegum.
 beƿiȝen on ƿeoruldæ.
 ƿæteȝe oððe eoȝhan.

It black lies smouldering,
 Somewhat like
 95 Even to that mountain,
 Which now *the* children of men
 Call Etna ;
 Which in *the* island
 Of Sicily
 100 With sulphur burns,
 That men hell fire
 Widely call,
 Because it ever is,
 Perpetually burning ;
 105 And about it
 Other places
 Everywhere burns up,
 With a bitter flame.
 Alas ! that the first
 110 Miser
 Should have been in the world,
 Who the fields
 Delved after gold,
 And after precious stones ;
 115 He indeed dangerous wealth
 Found for many,
 Concealed in the world,
 In water or in earth !

METRE IX.°

Hƿæt pe ealle piton.
 hƿelce æpleyte.
 ge neah ge ƿeon.
 Neƿon ƿorhte.
 Romƿapa cýningz.
 þa hir ƿice ƿær.
 hehþt undeƿ heoƿonum.
 to hƿýne moneȝum,
 ƿælheorey ȝeped.
 ƿær ƿul ƿide cuð.
 unƿiht-hæmed.
 ƿpleaȝta ƿela.
 man and ƿorþor.
 miȝðæða ƿorƿn.
 unƿihtƿiȝer.
 ƿiƿid-þoncay.
 He het him to ȝamene.
 ȝeapa ƿorþbæȝnan.
 Romana buriȝ.
 ƿio hir ƿicey ƿær.

We all indeed know
 What iniquities,
 Both near and far,
 Nero wrought,
 5 —King of *the Romans*,
 When his kingdom was
 Highest under heaven,
 For ruin to many.
 The madness of the tyrant
 10 Was full widely known,—
 Adultery,—
 Many impieties,—
 Wickedness and murder,—
 A multitude of misdeeds,—
 15 Of an iniquitous *man*
 The machinations !
 He ordered for his sport,
 Formerly to burn,
The city of the Romans,
 20 Which was of his whole empire

° Boet. Lib. ii. Met. vi. Novimus quantas dederit ruinas, &c.

ealler eþel-þtol.
 He ȝor unyntþnum.
 polðe ȝandian.
 gif ȝ ȝyr meahte.
 lixan ȝpa leohte.
 and ȝpa longe eac.
 neðna ȝettan.
 ȝpa he Romane.
 recgan geheþde.
 þæt on ȝume tïðe.
 Tnoia buñg.
 oþenþogen hæfde.
 lega leohtoft.
 lengest buinne.
 hama unden hefnonum.
 Næf ȝæt heþlic dæd.
 ȝæt hine ȝpelcer gamener.
 ȝilpan lÿte.
 þa he ne eapnade.
 eþer puhte.
 buton ȝæt he polðe.
 oþen ƿep-þiðe.
 hir aner huju.
 anpalð cýþan.
 Eac hit ȝerælde.
 æt ȝumum ciepne.
 ȝæt ȝe ilca het.
 ealle acpellan.
 þa nicoþtan.

The metropolis.
 He through foolishness,
 Would find out,
 Whether that fire might
 25 Shine as bright,
 And as long also,
And redder subside,
 Since he *the* Romans
 Heard say,
 30 That on a certain time,
The lightest flame,
The longest burning.
 Of dwellings under heaven,
 Had overwhelmed
 35 *The city of Troy.*
 That was not a glorious deed,
 That he of such like sport
 Should wish to boast,
 When he earned not
 40 Anything else ;
 Except that he would
 Over mankind,
 His own power,
 Somewhat display.
 45 It also happened,
 At a certain time,
 That the same [Nero] ordered
 To slay all
 The richest senators

Romana pitan.
and þa æheleſtan.
eoþl ȝebýrðum.
þe he on þæm folce.
ȝefjungen hærðe.
and on uppan.
agene brioþor.
and hif modor mid.
meca ecȝum.
billum of-beatan.
He hif bryðe of-ȝlog.
reſl mid ȝreorðe.
and he ȝymle pær.
micle þe bliðra.
on bneorȝ-coran.
þonne he ȝyrlceſ morðneſ.
mæſt ȝefnemede.
nalleſ ȝorȝode.
hpæheſ riðhan a.
mihtig Drihten.
ametan polðe.
ȝyceſ be ȝepýrhtum.
poh-ȝnemmenðum.
ac he on ȝerðe pægn.
þacneſ and ȝeañupa.
pælhriop punoðe.
Þiold emne ȝpa þeah.
ealleſ þiijer mæjan.
midban-geañdeſ.

50 Of *the Romans*,
And the nobleſt
Earls by birth,
Whom he among that people
Had discovered :

55 And upon
His own brother,
And his mother,
With *the* edges of swords,
With bills to strike.

60 He slew his bride
Himſelf with a sword ;
And he was always
Much the blither
In his breast,

65 When he of ſuch murder
Most perpetrated.
He nothing cared,
Whether afterwards, ever,
The mighty Lord

70 Would mete out
Punishment by *their* deeds,
To the doers of wickedneſſ.
But he in *his* mind rejoicing
In stratagems and frauds,

75 A tyrant remained.
Yet he even ſo governed
All this extensive
Middle earth,

þra þra lýft and lagu.
land ýmbclýppað.

þan-þecg embe-gýpt.
gumena nice.

þecge ritlu.

þuð-eaſt and peſt.

oð þa noþðmeſtan.

næſſan on eorþan.

eall þæt Neſone.

nede oððe luſtum.

heafþo-ƿinca gehƿilc.

hejan ȝeolde.

He hæſde him to gamene

þonne he on ȝylp aſtað.

hu he eorð-cýningas.

ýrmðe and cþelmdæ.

þenyt þu þe anpalð.

eaðe ne meahtæ.

Loðer ælmihtiger.

þone ȝelp-þcahan.

nice beþæðan.

and beþearfan.

hiſ anpaldeſ.

þuþh þa ecan meaht.

oððe him hiſ ýþeler.

elleſ ȝeſtiofan.

Ēala ȝif he polðe.

þæt he pel meahtæ.

þæt unþiht him.

As far as air and water

80 The land encircle,

And ocean encompasses
The kingdoms of men—

The seats of warriors ;
South-east and west,

85 To the most northern
Promontory of *the* earth ;

All that to Nero,

By force or willingly,—
(Every one of the nobles,)

90 Was obedient.

He had for sport to him,

When he increased in arrogance,

How he *the* kings of *the* earth
Should oppress and slay.

95 Thinkest thou that the power
Of Almighty God

Could not easily

Blast that arrogance,

The empire deliver,

100 And bereave *him*

Of his power,

By the eternal might ;

Or else him of his evil

Correct ?

105 O, that he would,

As he well might,

That injustice to him,

eaðe ȝorbiðan.
 ȣapla þe hlaþorð.
 hefiz ȝioc ȝlepte.
 ȝpape on þa ȝpýpan.
 ȝinna þegenā.
 ealna þapa hæleþa.
 þe on hiȝ tidoȝ.
 geond þaȝ lenan ƿoruld.
 liban ȝceolðon.
 He on unȝcylðum.
 eonla bloðe.
 hiȝ ȝpeoȝd ȝelede.
 ȝpiðe ȝelome.
 ȣær þær ȝpiðe ȝpeotol.
 þæt pe ȝædon oft.
 þæt ȝe anpald ne ȝeð.
 aþiht ȝodeþ.
 ȝif ȝe pel nele.
 þe hiȝ ȝepeald hafað.

Easily forbid !
 Alas ! that this lord
 110 A heavy yoke should cast,
 And burdensome on the necks
 Of his servants,
 Of all the men,
 Who in his times
 115 Throughout this transitory world
 Should live.
 He with the guiltless
 Blood of nobles
 His sword soiled
 120 Very often.
 Then was very clear,
 What we oft have said,
 That power does not
 Aught of good,
 125 If he does not will well
 Who has the exercise of it.

METRE X.⁴

Eiȝ nu hæleþa ȝpone.
 hliȝan lȣte.
 unnyȝne ȝelp.

If now any one of men
 Lusts for fame ;
 Unprofitable glory

⁴ Boet. Lib. ii. Met. vii. Quicumque solam mente præcipiti petit, &c.

agan pille.
 þonne ic hine polðe.
 polðum biddan.
 þæt he hine æghponon.
 utan ymbe þohte.
 rƿeotole ymb rape.
 ƿuð-eajt and ƿeþt
 hu ƿidgil ƿint.
 polcnun ymbutan.
 heoronej hpearlƿe.
 hige-ȝnotƿum.
 mæg eaðe þincan.
 þæt þeo ƿeorðe ƿie.
 eall ƿon þæt oþeñ.
 unȝemet* lýtel.
 þeah hio unpijum.
 ƿidgel ƿince.
 on ƿtede ƿtƿonglic.
 ƿteopleaðum men.
 þeah mæg þone piðan.
 on ȝepit-locan.
 þæne ȝitrunge.
 ȝelpej ȝcamian.
 þonne hine þær hlíjan.
 heaþdoþt lýteð.
 and he þeah ne mæg.
 þone toþpedan.

Will possess;
 5 Then him I would
 With words beseech,
 That he everywhere
 Round about him would consider,
 Would openly look round,
 10 South-east and west,
 How wide are
 Above the clouds,
 The regions of heaven.
 To *the* wise mind
 15 It may easily appear
 That this earth is
 All in comparison with that other,
 Immeasurably little,
 Though it to *the* unwise
 20 Extensive seems,
 —In *its* place stable,
 To unlearned men.
 Yet may the wise
 In *his* mind,
 25 Be ashamed of
 The greediness of glory,
 When he this fame
 Strongest desires.
 And yet he may not
 30 Spread it.

* MS. unȝemet.

oþer þar ne aþoran.

nænige þinga.

eorþan-þeataþ.

is þær unnet gelp.

Þala oþermodan.

hƿi eor alýrte.

mid eorþum ƿrþan.

þelþra pallum.

þær ƿrære gloc.

þymle undeþlutan.

Hƿy ge ýmb þær unnet.

ealnig ƿrþcen.

þær ge þone hlíran.

habban tlias.

oþer þiða ma.

þonne eor þearf ƿie.

þeah eor nu geþæle.

þær eor ƿuð oððe noðð.

þa ýtmeytan.

eoñð-buende.

on monig þiðir.

miclum hefien.

Þeah hƿa æþele ƿie.

eoñl ȝebýðum.

þelum ȝereorþað.

and on plencum þio.

þuðuþum ðioþe.

deað þær ne ȝcpriðeð.

þonne him ƿum foplæt.

In any wise,

Over these narrow

Regions of *the* earth.

Vain is that glory !

35 O, ye proud,

Why do ye desire,

With your necks,

That heavy yoke

Of your own wills,

40 Ever to support ?

Why do ye always labour

About that useless *thing*,

That ye fame

Strive to have,

45 Over more nations

Than is needful for you ?

Though to you it now happen,

That you *from* south to north,

The furthest

50 Inhabitants

In many nations

Greatly obey.

Though any should be noble,

An earl by birth,

55 Should abound in wealth,

And in splendour flourish,

Dear to *the* great ;

Death cares not for him,

When him *the* august Ruler

ƿodora ƿaldend. 60 Of *the* skies gives leave.
 ac he ƿone pelegan. But he the rich
 ƿædum ȝelice. Like unto the poor,
 efn mægne ȝedeð. Makes equally great
 ælcer ȝinger. In every thing.

Hƿær ƿint nu ƿær ƿyran. 65 Where are now the bones
 Ȣelandeð ban. Of the wise Weland,
 ƿær ȝold-ȝmíðer. The goldsmith,
 þe ƿær geo mænoſt Who was formerly most famous?
 ƿorþy ic ƿrað ƿær ƿyran. On this account I said,
 Ȣelandeð ban. 70 *The* bones of the wise Weland :
 ƿorþy ængum ne mæg. Because to any one
 eorð-buendja. Of earth's inhabitants may not
 ȝe ƿraeft lofian. The skill perish,
 þe him Ȣriȝt onlænð. Which to him Christ lends.

Ne mæg mon æfre ȝy eð. 75 Nor may any ever the sooner
 ænne ƿraeccan. Any wretch,
 hif ƿraeftær beniman, Of his skill deprive,
 þe mon onceyrhan mæg. Than any one can turn
 ȝunnan onyriðan. The sun backwards,
 and ȝyrne ȝyriðan ƿodor. 80 And this swift sky,
 of hif ƿiht-ȝyne. From its right course,
 ƿinca ænig. —Any one of men!
 Hƿa pat nu ƿær ƿyran. Who knows now *the* bones
 Ȣelandeð ban. Of the wise Weland ;

on hƿelcum in hlæpa. 85 Under what heap of earth
 hƿyrjan ƿeccen. *They are* concealed?
 Hƿær ȝið nu ȝe ƿinca. Where is now the powerful
 Romana ƿita. Senator of the Romans,

and je aroða.
 þe pe ýmb ypprecað.
 hioja hefetoða.
 je gehaten pær.
 mid þæm būnhƿarum.
 Brutus nemned.
 Hƿær iſ eac je piða.
 and je peorð-georðna.
 and je fæſt-ƿæða.
 folcer hýrðe.
 je pær uðpita.
 ælcer þingcer.
 cene and cƿæſtig.
 þæm pær Cato nama.
 Ni pæron ȝefýrn.
 forð-ȝepitene.
 nat nænig mon.
 hƿær hi nu ȝindon.
 Hƿæt iſ hioja hefe.
 buton je hlíra an.
 je iſ eac to lytel.
 ypelcra lapiða.
 forþæm þa mago-þincay.
 majan pýrðe pæron.
 on populde.
 Ac hit iſ pýrðe nu.
 þæt geond þar eorðan.
 ægþær ȝindon.
 hioja ȝelican.

And the asserter of liberty
 90 That we tell of;
 Their consul
 He was called.
 By the citizens,
 Named Brutus?
 95 Where is also the wise,
 And the studious of glory,
 And the inflexible
 Guardian of *the* people:
 Who was a philosopher
 100 In every respect,
 Brave and virtuous,
 To whom Cato was *the* name?
 They have long ago
 Departed.
 105 No man knows
 Where they now are.
 What is their fame,
 But the report alone
 Of such like teachers;
 110 Which is also too little,
 Because the men
 Of more were worthy.
 In the world?
 But it is worse now,
 115 That through this earth,
 Everywhere are
The like to them;

hpon ymb ƿppæce.
ƿume openlice.
ealle ƿorȝitene.
þæt hi ƿe hlīja.
hƿi-cuðe ne mæȝ.
ƿone-mæne ƿenar.
ƿorð ȝebƿengan.
ðeah ƿe nu penen.
and ƿilnigen.
þæt ƿe lange tido.
libban moten.
hƿæt iop æfne þy bet.
biō oððe þince.^f
ƿorþæm ƿe nane ƿoplet.
þeah hit lang ƿince.
deað æfteŋ ðoȝor-ƿime.
þonne he hæfð Dnihtne ƿeage.
Hƿæt þonne hæbbe.
hæleþa ænig.
guma æt ƿæm ȝilpe.
gif hine ȝeȝnian mot.
ƿe eca deað.
æfteŋ ƿiȝsum ƿopulde.

Very little mention of *them*:
Some clearly
120 *Are* all forgotten.
So that them
Familiar fame cannot
(Illustrious men)
Bring to light.
125 Though ye now expect,
And desire,
That ye a long time
May live:
What to you ever the better
130 Is it or appears;
Since after a number of days
Death lets none escape,
Though it seem long,
When he has the Lord's leave?
135 What then can have
Any one of men
From that glory,
If him may seize
Eternal death,
140 After this life?

^f ƿince in this, as in many other places, is used impersonally.

METRE XI.^s

An yceppend is.
 butan ælcum tƿeon.
 je is eac pealbend.
 populd-ȝerȝeaſta.
 heofoneſ and eorþan.
 and heah ȝæ.
 and ealna þapa.
 þe þær in puniað.
 unȝeȝepenlicra.
 and eac ypa yame.
 þapa þe pe eazum.
 on lociað.
 ealna ȝerȝeaſta.
 je is ælmihtig.
 þær oleccað.
 ealle ȝerȝeaſte.
 þe þær ambehter.
 apuht cunnon.
 ge eac ypa yame.
 þa þær auht nýton.

There is one Creator,
 Without any doubt,
 Who is also *the* ruler
 Of worldly creatures,
 5 Of heaven and earth,
 And *the* high sea :
 And of all those *creatures*
 Which therein dwell
 Invisible ;
 10 And also the same,
 Of those that with our eyes
 We behold ;
 —*Even* all creatures.
 He is almighty ;
 13 Him obey
 All creatures,
 That of this service
 Aught know.
 And in like manner *those*
 20 Which thereof nothing know,

^s Boet. Lib. ii. Met. viii. Quod mundus stabili fide, &c.

þæt hi þær þeodney. That they of this Lord
 þeopas ƿindon. Are servants.
 ƿe uj ȝerette. He to us has set
 ƿido and þeapas. Duties and customs,
 eallum ȝerceaſtum. 25 To all creatures
 unapendendne. Unchangeable,
 ƿingallice. For ever ;
 ƿibbe ȝecyndæ. —A natural relationship ;
 þa þa he polde. When he would,
 þæt þ he polde. 30 That which he would,
 ƿpa lange ƿpa he polde. As long as he would,
 þæt hit peyan ƿceolde. That it should be,
 ƿpa hit eac to populde ƿceal. As it also for ever shall
 punian^h ƿorð. Henceforth remain.
 ƿorþæm æfre ne magon. 35 For never may
 þa unȝyllan. The restless
 populd-ȝerceaſta. Worldly creatures,
 peorþan ȝerſtilde. Become still ;
 of þæm ƿyne onpend. Or from that course turn,
 ƿe him ƿodeña peajid. 40 Which to them the Guardian of the
 endebýndær. Orderly, [skies
 eallum ȝerette. To all has appointed.
 hærð ƿe alpealda. The Omnipotent has
 ealle ȝerceaſta. All creatures
 ȝebæt mid hir ƿnidle. 45 Restrained with his bridle :
 ƿaſað butu ȝedon. He has done both ;
 ealle ȝemanode. All admonished,

^h MS. ƿunian. Lye corrected the reading, and has ƿunian.

and eac getogen.
 þæt hi ne moten.
 ofer metodey eft.
 æfne getillan.
 ne eft eallunga.
 yriþor ytipian.
 þonne hi yrgona-peaþd.
 hij gepeald-leþen.
 ylle onlæten.
 he hafað þam¹ bniðle.
 butu befanzen.
 heorun and eoþban.
 and eall holma-bezongz.^k
 Spa hæfð geheabærod.
 hepon-nicey peaþd.
 mid hij anpealde.
 ealle gercearta.
 þæt hioна ægþpilc.
 rið ofer riñð.
 and þeah pinnende.
 yneþiað fæyte.
 ægþpilc ofer.
 utan ymbclÿppeð.
 þy lær hi torriþen.

And moreover restrained ;
 That they may not
 50 Beyond their Maker's pleasure
 Ever be still :
 Nor again altogether
 Move more,
 Than the triumphant Guardian
 55 The reins of his power
 Will relax.
 He has with the bridle
 Encompassed both
 Heaven and earth,
 60 And all *the* seas.
 So *the* Guardian of heaven,
 Has restrained
 By his power,
 All creatures ;
 65 That each one of them
 With other strives ;
 And though striving,
 Each the other
 Firmly supports,
 70 *And* outwardly embraces,
 Lest they should err.

¹ MS. þe.

^k I have never before met with this expression, and Lye does not notice it : but as holm is rendered by Lye aqua, mare, &c. and gong iter, semita, &c. it may with propriety be rendered as here translated.

þorhæm hi ȝymle ȝculon. For they always shall
 þone ilcan ȝyne.
 eft ȝecyrran. Again pursue,
 he æt ȝnymðe. 75 Which at *the* beginning,
 ȝæder ȝetioðe. *The* father ordained,
 and ȝra eðnipe. And so renewed,
 eft ȝerioðhan. Again to be ;
 ȝra hit nu ȝagað. So it now varies,—
 ȝnean eald ȝereorðc. 80 The old work of the Lord ;
 þæt te ȝinnende. That striving,
 ȝiþerpeað ȝerceaft. Contrary creatures,
 ȝærte ȝibbe. Firm agreement
 ȝorð anhealdað. Should ever keep.
 ȝra nu ȝyr and ȝatær. 85 As now fire and water,
 ȝolðe and lagu-ȝtream. Earth and seas,
 manigu oþru ȝerceaft. And many other creatures
 eft ȝriðe him. Equally great with them,
 ȝionð þarf ȝidán¹ ȝopulðe. Through this wide world,
 ȝinnað betweox him. 90 Strive between themselves,
 and ȝra þeah mazon. And yet thus may
 hioða ȝeznunða. Their service,
 and ȝerfyrce. And fellowship,
 ȝærte ȝehealðan. Firmly keep.
 Nið hit no þ an. 95 It is not this alone,
 þæt ȝra eaðe mæg. That so easily may
 ȝiþerpeað ȝerceaft. Contrary creatures
 ȝeran ætȝædere. Be together,

¹ MS. ȝidaf.

rýmbel gýfepan. Always companions :
 ac hit iſ ſellicne. 100 But it is more wonderful,
 þæt hioſa ænig ne mæg. That of them none may
 butan oþrum bion. Without *the* others exist ;
 ac r̄ceal puhta zehpilc. But each thing shall
 piþenpeaþðer hƿæt-hƿuzu. Of its contrary somewhat
 habban undēn heofonum. 105 Have under the heavens,
 þæt hit hige. Which its energy
 duƿne gemetgian. Dares to moderate,
 ær hit to micel peorðe. Before it comes to much.
 Ðæfð ƿe ælmihtiga. The Almighty has
 eallum gýrceaftrum. 110 To all creatures
 þæt gýpnixle gýfet. That interchange appointed,
 þe nu punian r̄ceal. Which shall now remain ;
 pýnta ȝnoran. Plants to grow,
 leaf ȝnenian. *The* leaf to become green,
 þæt on hæfþeſt eft. 115 That again in harvest
 hƿeſt^m and pealupað. Falls and withers.
 pinter ȝbringðeð. Winter brings
 peðer unȝemet calð. Weather immoderately cold,
 r̄pifte pindaj. And swift winds.
 Ȣumor æftær cýmeð. 120 Summer afterwards comes,
 peapim gýpideju. And warm weather.
 Ðpæt þa ponnan niht. Lo ! the dark night
 mona onlihtæð. *The* moon enlightens,
 oðþæt monnum dæg. Until day to men
 ȝunne ȝbringðeð. 125 *The* sun brings,

^m Literally, ceases, sc. to grow.

giond þar ȝidan gerceaf. Over this wide creation.
 Ðærð je ilca God. The same God has
 eorljan and pætefne. To earth and water
 meance gerette. Bounds appointed.

meine-ȝtneam ne ðear. 130 *The sea stream dares not*
 ofer eorljan ȝceat. Over *the region of the earth*,
 eadþ gebnæðan. Extend *their* province
 ȝlyca cýnne. To *the* tribes of fish,
 butan ȝnean leaþe. Without its Lord's leave :

ne hio æfne ne mot. 135 Nor may it ever
 eorljan ȝýnrc-pold. *The earth's threshold*
 up ofer ȝteppan. Over-step :
 ne þa ebban þon ma. Neither beyond the ebb
 folber meance ofer. May *the* boundaries of *the* land
 ȝapan moton. 140 Ever advance.
 þa geretnefra. These *things* so ordered
 ȝigora pealbend. *The Lord of victories*,
 lifer leoht ȝnuma. *The origin of life's light*,
 læt þenden he pile. Permits while he will,
 geond þar mæjan gerceaf. 145 Over this great creation
 meance healðen. *Their* limits to keep.
 Ac þonne je eca. But when the Eternal,
 and je ælmihtiga.. And the Almighty,
 þa gepealð-leþeru. The reins
 pile onlætan. 150 Will let go,
 efnæ þana bryðla. Even of the bridles,
 þe he gebætte. With which he curbed
 mid his azen peorc. His own work,
 eall æt ȝnýmðe. All at *the* beginning ;

þæt is ƿiþerƿeaſðneſ. 155 That is, *the contrariety*
 puhtē gehpelcne. Of each thing,
 þe pe mid þæm bƿidle. Which we by that bridle
 becnan tilað. Endeavour to denote ;
 gif re þiðen læt. If the Ruler permit
 þa toſlupan. 160 Them to be relaxed,
 ƿona hi ƿoplætað. Soon would they forsake
 lufan and ƿibbe. Love and peace,
 þær geſerjſciper. *The friendship*
 ƿneond-næðenne. Of this union :
 tilað anra gehƿilc. 165 And every one would strive
 agneſ pillan. *After* its own will.
 ƿoƿuld-geſceaſta. Worldly creatures
 ƿinnað betƿeoꝝ him. Would contend with each other,
 oðþæt þioſ eoꝝðe. Until this earth
 eall ƿorƿeoƿheð. 170 All perished :
 and eac ƿpa ƿame. And in like manner,
 oðþa geſceaſta. Other creatures
 ƿeoƿhað him ƿelſe. Would bring themselves
 ƿiðhan to nauhte. Afterwards to naught.
 Ac re ilca ƿod. 175 But the same God
 re þ eall metgað. Who all that guides,
 re geſehð ƿela. He joins many
 ƿolca to ƿomne. People together,
 and mid ƿneondjſipe. And with friendship
 ƿærte geſaðrað. 180 Fast unites *them*.
 geſamnað ƿinjſcipar. He cements marriages,
 ƿibbe ƿemenȝeð. And forms relationship

clænlice lufe. By virtuous love.
 ȳpa ȳe cnaeftga eac. So the Artificer also,
 geferfciþar. 185 Societies
 fæfte gejamnað. Firmly unites,
 þæt hi hioþa fneondyscipe. That they their friendship,
 fōrð on ȳmbel. Thenceforth always,
 untpeoþealde. Undivided,
 tneopa gehealðað. 190 True should keep,
 ȳbbe ȳamðade. Unanimously in peace.
 ēala ȳigora Lōð. O God of victories !
 pæn þis moncyn. This mankind would be
 miclum gejælig. Very happy,
 ȳf hioþa mod-þeþa. 195 If their minds
 meahte peorþan. Might be
 ȳtaþolþæft geþeaht. Rendered stable,
 þuþh þa ȳtþongan meaht. Through thy strong power,
 and ge endebýrð. And well ordered,
 ȳpa ȳpa oðra ȳnt. 200 Like as other
 ȳpulð geþearfta. Worldly creatures are.
 pæne hit la þonne. O then it would be
 mupze mid monnum. Merry with men,
 ȳf hit meahte ȳpa. If it might be so !

METRE XII.ⁿ

Se þe pille pýncan.
 pæjtmbæne lond.
 atio of þæm æcepe.
 ænjet rona.
 þeajn and þoþnay.
 and fýrþay rpa rame pið.
 þa þe pillað.
 pel hpæn ðeƿian.
 clænum hpæte.
 þy lær he ciba-lear.
 licge on þæm lande.
 Iy leoda gehpæm.
 þiof oðnu býren.
 efn behefu.
 þæt iy þæt te þýnceð.
 þegna gehpelcum.
 huniger bi-bþead.
 healþe þy rþetne.
 gýr he hpene æn.
 huniger teane.

He that will cultivate
 Fertile land,
 Let him from the field,
 First pluck up
 5 Fern and thorns,
 And furze, and also weeds ;
 Which are disposed
 Every where to hurt
 The clean wheat :
 10 Lest without germinating
 It lie in the land.
 To every people
 This other similitude
 Is equally necessary,
 15 Which is, that to every man
 Honey-comb
 Appears
 The sweeter by half,
 If he a little before
 20 The drop of honey,

ⁿ Boet. Lib. iii. Met. i. Qui serere ingenuum volet agrum, &c.

bítþer onbýrȝeð.
 Bið eac ȝpa ȝame.
 monna æȝhpilc.
 micle þy ȝægenja.
 liþer peðþer.
 ȝif hine lýtle ær.
 ȝtormaj ȝeftondað.
 and je ȝtearca pind.
 noþfan and eaytan.
 Næneȝum þuhte.
 ðæȝ on þonce.
 ȝif ȝio ȝimme niht.
 ær oþer elðum.
 eȝeran ne bþohte.
 ȝpa þincð anja ȝehƿæm.
 eorð-buendøja.
 ȝio ȝoðe ȝerȝelð.
 ȝymle þe beteþe.
 and þy ȝynȝumþe.
 þe he ƿita ma.
 heaþðra henþa.
 heþ aðneogðeð.
 Du meaht eac mýcle þy eð.
 on mod-ȝefan.
 ȝoþa ȝerȝelþa.
 ȝpeotoloþ ȝecnapan.
 and to heona cýððe.
 becuman ȝiðþan.
 ȝif þu up atýhýð.

Tastes *anything* bitter.
 So in like manner is
 Every man,
 Much the happier
 25 With fine weather,
 If him a little before
 Storms should oppress,
 And the stark wind
 From north and east.
 30 To none would seem
The day delightful,
 If the dim night,
 Before all men,
 Terror did not bring.
 35 So to every one appears,
 Of *the* inhabitants of *the* earth,
 The true felicity,
 Always the better,
 And the more delightful,
 40 As he more evils,
 And severer troubles,
 Here suffers.
 Thou mayest also much the easier
 In *thy* mind,
 45 True felicities
 More clearly know,
 And to their country
 Afterwards come,
 If thou pluckest up,

ærgerit rona.
 and þu apýntpalajt.
 of ȝerit-locan.
 leaȝa ȝerælþa.
 ȝra ȝra londær-ceopl.
 of hir æcere lycð.
 ȝfel peod monig.
 Siðþan ic þe recȝe.
 þær þu ȝreotole meaht.
 ȝroþa ȝerælþa.
 rona oncnapan.
 and þu ærre ne recȝt.
 æniger ȝingey.
 ofer þa ane.
 gif þu hi ealler ongittȝt.

50 First of all,
 And thou rootest
 Out of *thy* mind,
 False felicities ;
 As a husbandman
 55 From his field pulls up
 Many an evil weed.
 Afterwards I tell thee,
 That thou clearly mayest,
 True felicities
 60 Soon know :
 And thou never wilt
 Care for any thing,
 Above them alone,
 If thou fully discoverest them.

METRE XIII.♦

Ic pile mid ȝiddum.
 ȝet ȝecýban.
 hu ye ælmihtiga.
 ealra ȝerceafta.
 bryjð mid hir bryðlum.
 beȝð þidej he pile.
 mid hir anpealðe.

I WILL with songs
 Still declare,
 How the Almighty
 All creatures
 5 Governs with his bridle,—
 Bends where he will,—
 With his well ordered

♦ Boet. Lib. iii. Met. ii. *Quantas rerum flectat habenas, &c.*

ge endebýð. Power,
 pundonlice. Wonderfully
 pel gemetgað. 10 Well moderates.
 haſað Ȑpa geheþorad. The Ruler of *the* heavens
 heorona pealdend. Has so controlled,
 utan beþanzen. And encompassed
 ealla geþcearta. All creatures,
 geþæped mid hiȝ pacentan. 15 And bound them with his chains,
 þæt hi aƿðian ne magon. That they cannot find out
 þæt hi hi æƿne him. That they ever from them
 of aylepen. May slip :
 and þeah puhta gehpilc. And yet every thing,
 ƿriðað to-heald. ^p 20 Of various creatures,
 ȝidna geþcearta. Tends with proneness,
 ȝriðe onhelded. Strongly inclined
 ƿið þær gecynder. To that nature,
 þe hi cýning engla. Which *the* King of angels,
 fæðer æt ƿiðmðe. 25 The Father at *the* beginning,
 fæſte getiðe. Firmly appointed them.
 Ȑpa nu þinga gehpilc. Thus every one of things,
 þiðer-peand ȝundað. Of various creatures,
 ȝidna geþcearta. Thitherward aspires,
 buȝon ȝumum englum. 30 Except some angels,
 and moncýnne. And mankind ;
 þaþa micleſ to ȝeola. Of whom much too many,
 popolð-ƿunienðna. Dwellers in the world,
 ƿinð ƿið gecynde. Strive against *their* nature.

^p Lye renders this line, *tendit proclivis*.

Ðeah nu on londe.
leon gemete.
þynsume piht.
pel atemeðe.
hine maglyteñ.
miclum lufige.
and eac onðþæðe.
þoðoða gehpelce.
gif hit æfne gejæl
þæt hio ænigej.
blodej onbýrgeð.
ne þeajf beoðna n
þenan þærne ƿýrde.
þæt hio pel Ȥlðjan.
hine taman⁴ healde
ac ic triohhie.
þæt hio þær nípan
nauht ne gehicgge.
ac þone píðan geþ
pille geþencan.
hine elðjena.
onginð eoñneþte.
pacentan Ȥlitan.
þyn ȝrýmetigan.
and ænejt abit.
hine azener.

35 Though now on land,
A docile lion,
A pleasing creature,
Well tamed,
Her master

40 Much love,
And also fear,
Every day ;
If it ever happen,
That she any

45 Blood should taste,
No man need
Expect the chance,
That she well afterwards,
Her tameness will keep :

50 But I think

1. That she this new tameness,
Will naught regard ;
But will remember
The wild habits

55 Of her parents.
She will begin in earnest
Her chains to sever,
To roar,
And first will bite

60 Her own

⁹ Lye renders *tama*, domitor, a tamer; he has, however, no authority besides this passage; and as the context both in this and in the fifty-first line denotes a condition, I have ventured to translate it tameness.

hūrēr hīrēr.
 and hīrēr rīrēr.
 hæleþa gehpilcne.
 þe hīo gehentan mæz.
 nele hīo rōplætan.
 libbender pūht.
 neata ne monna.
 nīmð eall þ hīo rīnt.
 Spa dōð rūdu-rūglar.
 þeah hī pel rīen.
 tela atemeðe.
 gīf hī on tƿeopum peorþað.
 holte to midðer.
 hīrēr bīoð rōrēpene.
 heoƿa lārēopar.
 þe hī lange ær.
 týdon ȝ temedon.
 hī on tƿeopum rīlde.
 ealð-gecýnde.
 á rōrēr rīrēr.
 rīllum rūnīað.
 þeah him rōlde hīlīc.
 heoƿa lārēopa.
 lītum beoðan.
 þone ilcan mete.
 þe he hī ærōr mid.
 tame zetēðe.
 him þa tƿīgu hīncað.
 emne rīpa merȝe.

Master ;
 And quickly afterwards,
 Every man,
 Whom she can seize.
 65 She will not let go
 Any living thing,
 Of cattle or men :
 She will seize all she finds.
 So do the wood birds,
 70 Though they are
 Well tamed :
 If they are among trees
 In *the* midst of *the* wood,
 Immediately their teachers
 75 Are despised,
 Though they long before,
 Taught and tamed *them*.
 They wild in *the* trees,
 In *their* old nature,
 80 Ever afterwards,
 Willingly remain ;
 Though to them would,
 Each of their teachers,
 Skilfully offer,
 85 The same meat,
 That he before
 Tamed them with ;
 The branches seem to them
 Even so merry,

þæt hi þær metey ne necð. 90 That they for meat care not:
 þincð him to þon pýnþum. It seems to them so pleasant,
 þæt him ye pealð oncpýð. That to them the forest echoes;
 þonne hi geheðað. When they hear
 hleoþrum bñægðan.^r Other birds
 oðne fægðar. 95 Spread *their* sound,
 hi heopa aȝne. They their own
 ytefne ȝtýnlað. Voice raise.
 ȝtunað eal ȝeador. They stun the ears altogether
 pel-pýnþum ȝanc. With *their* joyful song,
 puðu eallum oncpýð. 100 The wood all resounds.
 Spa bið eallum tƿeopum. So is it with all trees,
 þe him on æþele bið. Which are in their own soil,
 þæt hit on holte. That each in *the* wood
 hýhýt ȝepeaxe. Highest shall grow.
 þeah þu hýlcne boh. 105 Though thou any bough
 býȝe píð eoþjan. Bendest towards *the* earth,
 he bið uppeaþðer. It is upwards,
 ȝpa þu an ȝoplætejt. As soon as thou lettest *it* go:
 piðu on pillan. Wide at will,
 pent on ȝecýnde. 110 *It* turns to *its* nature.
 Spa deð eac ȝio ȝunne. So does also the sun,
 þonne hio on ȝize peorþeð. When she is declining,
 oþen midne ðæȝ. After mid-day,—
 meþe condel. The great candle,
 ȝcýþt on oþðæle. 115 Verges to her setting,

^r Lye, in his Supplement, considers *bñægðan* to be the participle of *bñægðan*, and renders the line *strebitu dilatato*. I have, however, taken the liberty of rendering it as an infinitive.

uncuðne þeð.
níhter geneþeð.
norð eft Ȑ eajt.
elðum otepeð.
þpencð eoñð-pañum.
moñgen meñe toþhtne.
hio oþeñ moncyn Ȑtihð.
á uppeaþðer.
oð hio eft cýmeð.
þær hípe ýpemejt bið.
eaþð-ȝecýnde.
Spa ȝpa ælc gejceaþt.
ealle mægene.
geond þar piðan populð.
þriðað Ȑ hiðað.
ealle mægene.
eft ȝymle on lýt.
pið hið ȝecýnde.
cýmð to þonne hit mæg.
Niȝ nu oþeñ eoñþan.
æneȝu gejceaþt.
þe ne piñie þæt hio.
polde cuman.
to þam eaþðe.
þe hio oþ becom.
þæt iȝ oþþorȝneȝ.
and ecu neȝt.
þæt iȝ openlice.
ælmihti Ȑroð.

*The unknown way
Of night subdues :
Again north and east
Appears to men,
120 Brings to earth's inhabitants
Morning greatly splendid.
She over mankind goes
Continually upwards,
Until she again comes,
125 Where her highest
Natural station is.
So every creature,
With all its might,
Throughout this wide world,
130 Strives and hastens,
With all its might,
Again ever inclines
Towards its nature,
And comes to *it* when it may.
135 There is not now over the earth
Any creature,
Which does not desire,
That it should come,
To that region,
140 Which it came from,
That is, security,
And eternal rest;
Which is clearly,
Almighty God.*

Niſ nu oſen eoſhan.
 æneſu geſceaſt.
 þe ne hƿeaŋrige.
 ƿpa ƿpa hƿeol deð.
 on hiſe ƿelſne.
 ƿorþon hio ƿpa hƿeaŋrað.
 þæt hio eft cume.
 þær hio ænoŋ pær.
 þonne hio æneſt ƿie.
 utan behƿeŋreð.
 þonne hio ealleſ ƿynd.
 utan beceŋneð.
 hio ƿceol eft ƿon.
 þæt hio æn ðyðe.
 and eac ƿeſan.
 þæt hio ænoŋ pær.

145 There is not now over the earth
 Any creature,
 Which does not revolve
 As a wheel does,
 On itself ;
 150 For it so turns,
 That it again comes,
 Where it before was.
 When it is first
 Put in circular motion,
 155 Then it altogether is
 Turned round ;
 It must again do
 That which before it did,
 And also be,
 160 What it before was.

METRE XIV.

þpæt brð þæm pelegan.
 populð-ȝitȝeſe.
 on hiſ mode þe bet.
 þeah he micel aȝe.
 goldeſ ȝ gimma.

WHAT is *it* to the rich
 Worldly miser,
 In his mind the better,
 Though he possess much
 5 Of gold and gems,

* Boet. Lib. iii. Met. iii. Quamvis fluente dives auri gurgite, &c.

and *gooda gehpær.* And of every kind of goods
æhta unjum. Immense possessions ?
 and him mon *ejigen jcyle.* And for him men shall plough
æghpelce dæg. Every day.
æcepa þuſend. 10. A thousand fields ?
 Ðeah þer miðdan *geapd.* Though this middle earth,
 and þir manna cýn. And this race of men,
jy undeþ runnan. Under *the sun,*
jyð peft j eft. South west and east,
hiſ anpalde eall. 15. Be to his power
undeþþieded. All subjected;
ne mot he þaþa hýnþta. He cannot of these ornaments
hiona ne læðan. Hence take away,
of þirre populde. From this world,
puhte þon mape. 20. Anything the more
hoþd-geþtreona. Of his treasures,
þonne he hiþer bþohte. Than he hither brought.
 Ða je *þyðom þa þir hoð.* When Wisdom had sung
ajungen hæfðe. þa ongān This lay, then he began
 he eft *þpellian and cƿæð.* 25. Again to speak, and said.

METRE XV.^a

Ðeah hine nu. THOUGH now himself
je ýþela unþihtþýa. The evil, unrighteous

^a This and the two following lines are prose.

Boet. Lib. iii. Met. iv. *Quamvis se Tyrio superbus ostro, &c.*

Nēpon cýnincȝ.
 nípan gejceŋpte.
 pl̄teȝum pæðum.
 pundioplice.
 golde geȝlengðe.
 and ḡim-cýnnum.
 þeah he pæȝ on poŋulðe.
 p̄tēna gehpelcum.
 on h̄iȝ h̄iȝ-dagum.
 lað and unpeorð.
 piepen-ȝfull.
 hƿæt je ſeond ȝpa þeah.
 h̄iȝ dioplingaȝ.
 duȝuȝum ȝtepte.
 ne mæȝ ic þeah gehýcȝan.
 hƿy him on h̄ige þoŋfte.
 aþy ȝæl pejan.
 þeah hi ȝume hpile.
 ȝecuȝe butan cnaȝtum.
 cýnincȝa ȝdyȝgaȝt.
 næpon h̄y þy peorðjan.
 p̄tēna æneȝum.
 þeah hine je ȝdyȝgaȝt.
 do to cýnincȝe.
 hu mæȝ þ gejceadþir.
 ȝcealc ȝeneccan.
 þæt he him þy ȝeljaȝ.
 ȝie oððe þince.

King, Nero,
 Newly adorned,
 5 With splendid garments,
 Wonderfully
 Decorated *himself* with gold
 And jewels;
 Nevertheless he was in the world,
 10 To every wise man,
 In his lifetime,
 Loathsome and unworthy,
 Full of crimes.
 Although the fiend,
 15 His favourites
 With honours decked,
 I nevertheless cannot discover
 Why to them in their mind,
He needed the better to be.
 20 Though sometimes those
 Without virtues,
 The most foolish of kings chose,
 They were not the more worthy
 To any one of the wise.
 25 Though the foolish
 Make himself a king,
 How can a wise
 Man reckon,
 That he to him the better
 30 Should be or seem ?

METRE XVI.^w

Se þe pille anpald agon. He that will power possess,
 þonne ȝceal he ærejt tilian. Then shall he first endeavour
 þæt he his ȝelfeſ. That he of himself,
 on ȝefan aȝe. In his mind,
 anpald innan. 5 Power may possess :
 þy læſ hi ærne ȝie. Lest he ever be,
 his unþeapum. To his vices,
 eall unðeȝþyðed. All subjected.
 aðo of his mode. Let him put away from his mind
 miȝlicra ȝela. 10 A great variety
 þana ȝymbhogona. Of those cares,
 þe him unnet ȝie. Which are unprofitable to him :
 læte ȝume hpile. (Cease awhile
 ȝioȝunga. From thy complaints
 and eȝimþa þinra. 15 And miseries.)
 Ðeah him eall ȝie. Though to him should be,
 þer miððan ȝeanð. This middle earth,
 ȝpa ȝpa meñe-ȝtƿeamað. As the seas
 utan belicgað. Surround it,
 on aht ȝifен. 20 For a possession given,

^w Boet. Lib. iii. Met. v. Qui se volet esse potentem, &c.

efnē ƿpa ƿide.
 ƿpa ƿpa ƿermejt nu.
 an ƿglond ligð.
 ut on ƿaprecg.
 þær nængu brð.
 niht on ƿumeja.
 ne puhte þon ma.
 on ƿintƿa ðæg.
 toteled ƿidum.
 þæt is Tile haten.
 þeah nu anpa hƿa.
 ealler ƿealde.
 þær ƿgländer.
 and eac þonan.
 oð Indear.
 earf-te-peanðe.
 þeah he nu ƿ eall.
 aȝan mote.
 hƿy brð hir anpald.
 auhte þy maja.
 ȝif he riðban nah.
 hir relfer ȝepealð.
 inȝebancer.
 and hine eoƿnejte.
 pel ne beƿapenað.
 ƿorðum ƿ ðæðum.
 pið þa unþeapaj.
 þe pe ȝymb ƿƿecað.

Even as wide,
 As most westward now,
 An island lies,
 Out in the ocean,
 25 Where is no
 Night in summer,
 Nor aught the more
 Day in winter
 Reckoned,
 30 Which is called Thule ;
 Though now any one
 Ruled all
 This island,
 And also thence
 35 To *the* Indies
 Eastward ;
 Though he now all that
 Might possess,
 Why would his power be
 40 Aught the greater,
 If he afterwards have not
 Power over
 His own mind,
 And himself in earnest,
 45 Does not well guard,
 In words and deeds,
 Against the vices,
 That we are speaking about ?

METRE XVII.*

Ðæt eorðpagan.
 ealle hæfðen.
 fold-buende.
 þnuman gelicne.
 hi of anum træm.
 ealle comon.
 pe ne ȝ rife.
 on populd innan.
 and hi eac nu get.
 ealle gelice.
 on populd cumað.
 plance ȝ heane.
 nif ȝ nan pundor.
 þonþæm pitan ealle.
 þæt an Lrod ȝ.
 ealra georceafta.
 þrea moncynner.
 fæder and ȝcippend.
 ȝe þærne sunnan leoht.
 ȝeleð of heororum.

Wisdom said that mortals
 Inhabiting *the* earth,
 All had
 A like beginning;
 5 They from one pair,
 All came,
 Men and women
 Into *the* world;
 And they also still
 10 All alike
 Into *the* world come,
 Rich and poor.
 This is no wonder,
 For all know
 15 That *there* is one God
 Of all creatures,
 Lord of mankind,
 Father and Creator.
 He to the sun light
 20 Gives from heaven,

* Boet. Lib. iii. Met. vi, Omne hominum genus in terris, &c.

monan ȝ þýrum^y mærum To *the* moon and these bright
ȝteorþum. stars.

je ȝerceop men on eoþan. He created men on earth,
and ȝeramnaðe. And united
ȝraple to lice. *The* soul to *the* body,

æt ȝnuman æneſt. 25 First at *the* beginning.
ȝolc undær polcnum. *He* created equally noble
emn æþele ȝerceop. The people under the clouds,
æȝhpilcne mon. Every man.

þry ȝe þonne ærþe. Why do ye then ever,
oferi oðre men. 30 Over other men,
ofermodiȝen. Proudly exalt yourselves,
buton andþeorþe. Without cause,
nu ȝe unæþelne. Since ye do not find
æniȝ ne metað. Any ignoble?

þry ȝe eop ȝor æþelum. 35 Why do ye for your nobility
up ahebben nu. Lift up yourselves?
On þæm mode bið. In the mind is
monna ȝehpilcum. To every one of men
þa riht æþelo. The true nobility

þe ic þe neccce ȝymb. 40 That I am telling thee about;
naleȝ on þæm ȝlæyce. Not in the flesh
ȝold-buendra. Of the dwellers upon earth.
Ac nu æȝhpilc mon. But now every man,
þe mid ealle brð. That withal is
hiȝ unþeapum. 45 To his vices
undærþieðed. Subjected;

^y MS. þýr.

he forlæt ærjet.	He first forsakes
lifor fnum-rcæft.	The first origin of life,
and his agene.	And his own
æbælo rpa ræfæ.	50 So peculiar nobility ;
and eac þone fæder.	And also the Father,
þe hine æt fnuman geceop.	Who him at first created.
fornbæm hine anæbelað.	Therefore, Almighty God
ælmihtig God.	Will him degrade,
þæt he unæbæle.	55 That he ignoble
á forð þanan.	Ever, thenceforth
þynd on peorulde.	In <i>the</i> world may be,
to pulðre ne cymð.	<i>And</i> not come to glory.

METRE XVIII.²

Ēala þ þe ýpla.	ALAS ! that the evil,
unrihta gedēð.	Unrighteous,
þraþa pilla.	Violent desire
poh-hæmeterj.	Of unlawful lust should,
þæt he mid ealle gedræfð.	5 —That it withal should trouble,
anþa gehþylcer.	Full nigh the mind
monna cynnerj.	Of every one
mod fulneah þon.	Of the human race !

^z Boet. Lib. iii. Met. vii. Habet omnis hoc voluptas, &c.

hpæt ſio pilde beo. Now the wild bee,
 þeah pif ſie. 10 Though ſhe be wiſe,
 anunza þeal. Shall at once,
 eall þorpeorþan. Altogether periſh,
 gif hio ýrþinga. If ſhe angrily
 apuht þtingeð. Anything ſting.
 rpa þeal ripla gehpilc. 15 So ſhall every ſoul
 rloðhan lorian. Afterwards periſh,
 gif re lichoma. If the body
 þorlegan peorþeð. Be guilty of
 unþiht-hæmeðe. Adultery ;
 bute him æn cume. 20 Unless to it previously come
 hƿeop to heortan. Repentance to the heart,
 æn he hionan pendē. Before it depart hence.

METRE XIX.*

Ecala þ iſ hefirð dýrif. ALAS ! that is a grievous folly,
 hýgeð ymbe ye þe pile. Let him conſider it who will,
 and þpecenlic. And dangerous,
 rípa gehpilcum. To every man,
 þæt þa eapman men. 5 Which theſe wretched men
 mid ealle gedpæleð. Entirely ſeduſes
 of þæm rihtan pege. From the right way.—

* Boet. Lib. iii. Met. viii. Eheu, quam miseros tramite devio, &c.

þeſene alædeð.	Continually misled !
þþæþen ge pillen.	Do ye now desire
on puða recan.	10 In woods to seek
gold þæt neade.	The red gold,
on ȝnenum tƿiopum.	On green trees ?
Ic pat ƿpa þeah.	I know, however,
þæt hit pitena nan.	That no wise man
þideþ ne ƿeceð.	15 Seeks it there ;
þorþæm hit þær ne ƿexð.	For it grows not there,
ne on ƿinzeaþdum.	Nor in vineyards
þlitige ȝimmar.	Beautiful gems.
þþy ge nu ne ƿettan.	Why do ye now not set
on ƿume dune.	20 On some hill
ƿiſc net eoppu.	Your fishing net,
þonne eop ƿon lýteð.	When you desire to take
leax oððe cýpejan. ^b	Salmon or carp ?
Me ȝelicoðt þincð.	To me <i>it</i> seems most likely,
þæt te ealle piten.	25 That all inhabitants of earth,
eopð-buende.	Wise in mind,
þoncol-mode.	Know that they
þæt hi þær ne ƿint.	Are not there.
þþæþen ge nu pillen.	Are ye now desirous
þæþan mið hundum.	30 To hunt with hounds
on ƿealtne ƿæ.	In <i>the</i> salt sea,
þonne eop recan lýt.	When you wish to seek
heopotaf ȝ hinda.	Harts and hinds ?

^b Lye does not give a definite translation to cýpejan, but calls it *piscis genus*. My translation is merely conjectural.

þu gehycgan meaht.
 þæt ge pillað þa.
 on ƿuda ȝecan.
 oftoþ micle.
 þonne ut on ȝæ.
 Iſ þ ƿundorlic.
 þæt pe ƿitan ealle.
 þæt mon ȝecan ȝceal.
 be ȝæ-paððe.
 and be ea-ofnum.
 æþele ȝimmaþ.
 hƿite and neade.
 and hipa ȝehƿær.
 Hƿæt hi eac ƿiton.
 hƿær hi ea-ƿircay.
 ȝecan þuƿfan.
 and ȝyrlcna ȝela.
 peoruld-peleña.
 hi þ pel doð.
 georñfullle men.
 ȝeaþa ȝehƿilc.
 ac þ iſ eamhlicoþ.
 ealna þinga.
 þæt þa dýrgegan ȝint.
 on ȝedpolan ƿordene.
 efnæ ȝpa blinde.
 þæt hi on bñeoþtum ne magon. That they in *their* breasts cannot
 eaðe ȝecnapan.
 hƿær þa ecan ȝood.

Thou mayest suppose
 35 That ye will them
 In woods seek
 Much oftener,
 Than out in *the* sea.
 Is it wonderful
 40 That we all know
 That any one must seek
 By the sea shore,
 And by river banks,
 Noble gems,
 45 White and red,
 And of every kind of hue?
 They moreover know,
 Where they river fishes
 Ought to seek,
 50 And many such
 Worldly acquisitions:
 They do this well,
 Prudent men,
 Every year.
 55 But this is the most wretched
 Of all things,
 That foolish men are
 So in error,
 Even so blind,
 That they in *their* breasts cannot
 Easily know,
 Where the eternal good,

roþa geþælþa. True felicities
 71 ȝindon gehyðða. Are hidden ;
 72 ȝorþæm hi æfje ne lýt. 65 Therefore they never care
 æfþer ȝrþýrian. To inquire after,
 73 ȝecan þa geþælþa. To seek these felicities.
 74 ȝenað ȝampiȝe. They unwise think,
 75 ȝæt hi on þis lænan mægen. That they in this transitory
 life ȝindan. 70 Life may find
 roþa geþælþa. True felicities,
 76 ȝæt is ȝelþa Ȥod. That is God himself.
 77 Ic nat hu ic mæȝe. I know not how I may
 næniȝe ȝinga. In any respect
 ealleȝ ȝpa ȝriðe. 75 Altogether so greatly.
 on ȝefan minum. In my judgment,
 78 hiopa ȳȝiz tælan. Their folly reprove
 ȝpa hit me don lýtæð. As I wish to do :
 ne ic þe ȝpa ȝpeotole. Nor it so clearly
 79 geþecgan ne mæȝ. 80 May I declare.
 ȝorþæm hiz^c ȝint eañmpan. For they are more wretched,
 and eac ȳȝezpan. And also more foolish,
 ungeþæliȝpan. And more unhappy.
 80 ȝonne ic þe ȝecgan mæȝe. Than I to thee can describe.
 81 Hi ȝilniað. 85 They desire
 ȝelan and æhta. Wealth and possessions,
 and ȝeoñðyciper. And dignity
 to ȝepinnanne. To acquire ;
 82 ȝonne hi habbað ȝæt. When they have that

hioja hige receð.
penað þonne.
þja ȝepitleare.
þæt hi þa roðan.
gerælþa hæbben.

90 *Which* their minds seek,
They then suppose,
So foolish *are they*,
That they true
Felicities possess.

METRE XX.^a

Ēala min Dnihten.
þæt þu eart ælmihtig.
micel modilic.
mænþum ȝerƿæze.
and ƿundorlic.
ƿitena ȝehƿylcum.
Hƿæt þu ece Ȥod.
ealna ȝerceafta.
ƿundorlice.
pel ȝerceope.
unȝerȝepenlicra.^b
and eac ȝpa ȝame.
ȝerȝepenlicra.
forþe pealdeft.
ȝcƿna ȝerceafta.
mid ȝerceaðƿiȝum.

O, my Lord !
Thou who art Almighty,
Great, magnanimous,
For miracles celebrated,
5 And wonderful,
To every one of the wise !
Thou eternal God !
All creatures
Wonderfully
10 Well hast made,
Those which are invisible,
And also the same,
Those which are seen ;
Thou softly rulest
15 *The* pure creatures,
With rational

^a Boet. Lib. iii. Met. ix. O qui perpetuâ mundum ratione gubernas, &c.

^b MS. unȝerȝepenlica.

mægne ʃ cƿærfe.	Power and skill.
Ðu þýrne middan geaŋð.	Thou this middle earth
fr̄om fr̄uman æneſt.	From <i>the</i> first beginning,
þorð oð ende.	20 Forth until <i>the</i> end,
tidum todælðer.	By times hast divided,
þpa hit getærjot pær.	As it was most suitable
endeþýrðer.	For order:
þæt hi ægþræðer.	That they both
ge aƿr̄að.	25 Depart
ge eftcumað.	And again return.
Ðu þe unytilla.	Thou thine own
agna geſceafra.	Restless creatures
to þinum píllan.	To thy will
þr̄ilice aſtýneſt.	30 Wisely movest,
and þe yelf punæſt.	And thou thyself remainest
þriðe yſtille.	Very still,
unanpendendlic. ¹	Unchangeable,
á þorð ymle.	Always, for ever!
niſ nan mihtigra.	35 No one is mightier,
ne nan mænra.	Nor <i>is</i> any greater,
ne geond ealle þa geſceafra.	Nor through all the creation,
eþnlica þin.	<i>Is any</i> equal to thee.
ne þe ænig ned-þeaŋr næſ.	To thee no need there was
æfre giet ealra.	40 Ever yet of all

¹ In the MS. these two lines stand,
unanpendendlica.
þorð ymle.

The adverb *a*, through the error of some transcriber, was added to *unanpendendlic*, which, in copying a MS. was a very possible mistake.

þaða þeora. The works,
 þe þu ȝeƿorht hafayt. Which thou hast made ;
 ac mid þinum pillan. But by thy will
 þu hit ƿorhter eall. Thou madest it all,
 and mid anpalde. 45 And by thine
 þinum aȝenum. Own power,
 peorulðe ȝeƿorhter. Didst create *the* world,
 and ƿuhta ȝehƿæt. And every creature ;
 þeah þe nænegu. Though to thee
 ned-þeaŋf ƿæne eallra. 50 Was no necessity of all
 þaða mænþa. These miracles !
 Iſ þ micel ȝecynd. Great is the nature
 ƿineſ gooder. Of thy goodness ;—
 þencð ýmb re þe pile. Consider it who will :
 ȝorþon hit iſ eall an. 55 For it is all one
 ælcer ȝincger. In every thing,
 þu iſ þ þin good. Thou and thy good :
 hit iſ þin aȝen. It is thine own,
 ȝorþæm hit niſ^s utan. For it is not from without,
 ne com auht to þe. 60 Nor did aught come to thee.
 Ac ic georhne pat. But I well know,
 þær þin goodner iſ. That thy goodness is
 ælmihtig good. Almighty good,
 eall mid þe ȝelſum. All with thyself.
 Hit iſ ungelic. 65 It is unlike
 uƿum ȝecynde. To our nature :
 iſ iſ utan cýmen. To us from without came

eall þa þe habbað.
gooda on ȝrundum.
fr̄om Lode ȝelþum.
Næft þu to ænegum.
andan ȝenumenne.
þorþam þe nan ȝing nij.
þin ȝelica.
ne huru ænȝ.
ælc næftiȝne.
þorþam þu eal good.
aneȝ ȝeþeahte.
þineȝ ȝeþohteȝt.
and hi þa pophþeȝt.
næȝ ænþor þe.^h
ænegu ȝerȝeaȝt.
þe auht oððe nauht.
auþen poȝhte.
Ac þu butan býne.
bneȝo moncýnneȝ.
æl ælmihtig Lrod.
eall ȝepophþeȝt.
ȝing þeaple good.
eajt þe ȝelþa.
þæt hehȝte good.
Hræt þu halȝ ræðeȝ.
æfter ȝinum ȝillan.
populd ȝerȝeope.

All that we have
Of goods on earth,
70 From God himself.
Thou hast not towards any
Conceived envy,
For nothing is
Like unto thyself;
75 Nor is any
More skilful:
For thou all good,
Of thine own thought,
Didst devise,
80 And then didst it create.
There was not before thee
Any creature,
Which either aught or naught
Could make,
85 But thou without a pattern,
Ruler of mankind,
All Almighty God,
Madest all
Things very good;
90 And thou thyself art
The highest good!
Thou, O Holy Father,
After thy will,
Didst *the* world create,

^h MS. næȝ aþoȝþe.

þijne middan geaſd. 95 This middle earth,
 meahtum þinum. By thy power,
 Peoraða Dnihten. Lord of Hosts,
 ȳpa þu poldeſt ȳelp. As thou thyſelf wouldest;
 and mid þinum ȳllan. And with thy will
 pealdeſt ealleſ. 100 Governest it all !
 ȳorþæm þu ȳroþa ȳod. For thou, O true God,
 ȳelpa dæleſt. Didſt thyſelf distribute
 ȝooda æghpilc. All goods ;
 ȳorþæm þu geaſa æn. For thou long ago,
 ealle¹ geſcearta. 105 All creatures
 æneſt geſceope. Didſt first create,
 ȳriðe gelice. Very much alike,
 ȳumer hƿæþne þeah. Yet in ſome degree
 ungelice. Unlike ;
 nemdeſt eall ȳpa þeah. 110 Yet thou didſt name all
 mid ane noman. With one name,
 ealle togaðeſe. All together,
 ȳoruld undeſt polcnum. THE WORLD under the clouds.
 ȳpæt þu pulðneſt ȳod. But thou, O God of glory !
 þone anne naman. 115 That one name
 eft toðaðeſ. Didſt again divide,
 ƿæðeſ on ƿeopeſ. O Father, into four :
 þær þana folðe an. Of these one was earth,
 and pæteſ oþeſ. And the ſecond water,
 ȳopolde dæleſ. 120 Of the diſtiſions of the world,

¹ Hickes ſtates that ealla is ued poetically for ealle : but I am inclined to think that ealla, when it occurs in Boethius, is inaccurate, and have therefore corrected the MS. reading.

and fýr iſ þniðde.
and feoperiðe lýft.
þæt iſ eall peoruld.
eft togædeſe.

Habbað þeah þa feoperiſ.
fnum-ſtol hiopa.
ægþpilc hiopa.
agenne ſteðeſ.
þeah anja hþilc.
pið oþerj rie.
míclum gemengeð.
and mið mægne eac.
fædeſ ælmihtigeſ.
fæſte gebunden.
geſiblice.
ſoſte togædeſe.
mið beboðe þine.
bilepít fædeſ.
þæt te heo na ænig.
oþerj ne doþyte.
meaſc oþerjangan.
ſon metodeſ egeſ.
ac geðþeoroð ſint.
þegnaj togædeſe.
cýnigeſ cempan.
cele pið hæto.
þæt pið doþygm.
piñnað hƿæþre.
þæteſ ſ eoþde.

And *the* third is fire,
And *the* fourth air;
That is all the world
Again together.

125 Yet have the four
Their original station;
Each one of them
Its own place:
Though each of them
130 Be with other
Much mixed;
And also by the power
Of *the* Father Almighty
Fast bound,
135 Peaceably,
And suitably together,
By thy command,
O merciful Father!
So that any of them
140 Durst not *the* others
Boundary overpass,
For dread of *the* Creator;
But they are consenting
Servants together,
145 Soldiers of the king.
Cold with heat,
Wet with dry,
However strive.
Water and earth

pærtmar bñengð. 150 Bring fruits ;
 þa ȝint on ȝecýnde. These are by nature
 cealða ba tpa. Both cold.
 pæteþ pæt ȝ cealð. Water wet and cold,
 þangar ȝmbe-licȝað. Lieth round *the* fields.
 eorðe æl ȝreno. 155 With the earth all green
 eac hƿæþne cealð lýft. The cold air nevertheless
 iȝ ȝemenȝed. Is mingled,
 ȝorþæm hio on midðum punað. For it in *the* middle dwells.
 niȝ ȝ nan ƿundor. It is no wonder
 þæt hio ȝie peajm ȝ cealð. 160 That it is warm and cold,—
 pæt polcneȝ tæp. *The* wet expanse of clouds
 ƿinðe ȝeblonðen. Mingled by the wind ;
 ȝorþæm hio iȝ on midle. For it is in the middle,
 mine ȝerþaze. In my opinion,
 ȝýreȝ ȝ eorþan. 165 Between fire and earth.
 Fela monna pat. Many men know
 þæt te ȝfemeȝt iȝ. That fire is the uppermost
 eallha ȝerþæfta. Of all creatures
 ȝýr oþer eorþan. Over *the* earth,
 folðe neoþemæȝt. 170 *And* the ground the lowest.
 Iȝ þæt ƿundorlic. Wonderful is that,
 ȝenoda Dnihten. O Lord of Hosts !
 þæt þu mid ȝeþeahte. Which thou with thine
 ȝinum ƿyndceȝt. Own counsel workest ;
 þæt þu þæm ȝerþæftum. 175 That thou to thy creatures
 ȝpa ȝerþeadlice. So wisely
 meajce ȝeretteȝt. Settest bounds,
 and hi ne mengdeȝt eac. And moreover dost not mix them.

þær þu þæm pætter. pætum ȝ cealdum.	Thou to the water wet and cold,
þoldan to þlope. fægte geftettejt.	The earth for a floor Firmly settest;
þorþæm hit unſtille. æghƿideŋ polde.	Because it <i>being</i> restless, Would everywhere
ƿide ƿorþiðan. pac and hneſce.	Widely wander, Weak and soft;
ne meahte hit on him ƿelfum. ȝoð ic ȝeaſe pat.	Nor could it of itself, (I well know <i>it is</i> true)
æfne geſtandan. ac hit ȝio eoṛðe.	Ever stand: But the earth
hilt ȝ ƿelgeð eac. be ƿumum dæle.	Holds it, and also imbibes, In some measure,
þæt hio ȝiðhan mæȝ. þorþæm ȝype ƿeorðan.	That it afterwards may, Through that moistening be
þorþæm leaf ȝ ȝærj. ȝnæð ȝeond Bƿetene. ^k	Lightened by the air.
blopeð ȝ ȝnopeð. elðum to aƿe.	Therefore leaves and grass, Wide over Britain,
ƿeorðe ȝio cealde. bƿengð pætma ȝela.	Blow and grow, For wealth to men.
ƿundorlīcra. þorþæm hio mid þæm pætter. ƿeorðað ȝehapeneð.	The cold earth Bringeth many fruits, More wonderful, Because it with the water Is moistened.

^k This passage, among others, shews that Alfred applied the reasonings and language of Boethius to himself and his own country.

gif þ næne.
þonne hio ræne.
fördrygð to dyrte.
and tödriſen յöðhan.
riðe mið rind.
rypa nu peorþað oft.
axe giond eoþan.
eall toblapen.
Ne meahte on þæne eoþan. Nor could on the earth
apuht libban.
ne puhte þon ma.
pætneſ brycan.
oneaſdian.
ænige cræſte.
föp cele anum.
gif þu cýning engla.
pið fýre hƿæt-hƿuzu.
földan յ lagu-þream.
ne menzdeſt togaðeſe.
and zemetzodeſt.
cele յ hæto.
cræſte þine.
þæt þ fýr ne mæz.
földan յ mehe-þream.
blate förbærnan.
þeah hit pið ba tƿa ȝie.
fæſte geſegeð.
fæðen ealð gepeorð.
ne þincð me þ ynduŋ.

205 If it were not,
Then would it be
Dried to dust,
And afterwards driven
Wide by *the* wind ;
210 As now often are
Ashes over the earth
All blown.
215 Nor anything the more
Enjoy *the* water,
Or dwell
By any means,
Through cold alone :
220 If thou, King of angels,
With fire in some measure,
Earth and seas
Didst not mingle ;
And temper
225 Cold and heat
By thy skill,
So that the fire may not
The earth and seas
Widely burn up,
230 Though it with both be
Fast joined ;
The ancient work of *the* Father.
Nor seems to me that wonder

puhte þe læsse. Anything the less,
 þæt þiſ eorðe mæg. 235 That this earth,
 and egor-ſtream. And seas,
 ſpa cealð geſceapt. Such cold creatures,
 cnaefta nane. Can by no means,
 ealler aðræſcan. Wholly extinguish
 þæt þ him on innan ſticasd. That which in them remains
 fýner geſegeð. 240 Of fire, joined
 mid fnean cnaeft. By the Lord's power.
 þæt iſ aȝen cnaeft. Such is the peculiar power
 eago-ſtreamer. Of the seas,
 pætner ȝ eorðan. 245 Of water and earth,
 and on polcnum eac. And also in the clouds,
 and eſne ſpa rame. And even the same
 uppe oþer ȝodejne. Up above the sky.
 Donne iſ þær fýner. Then is the fire's
 fnum-ſtol on ȝiht. 250 Proper station
 eajd oþer eallum. And dwelling over all
 oðrum geſceaptum. Other creatures
 geſepenlicum. Visible,
 geond ȝirne ȝidan ȝrund. Through this wide earth ;
 þeah hit pið ealle¹ rie. 255 Though it with all
 eft geſengeth. Worldly creatures
 peoruld-geſceapt. Is still mixed :
 þeah ȝaldan ne mot. Yet it cannot prevail,
 þæt hit ænige. That it any
 eallunga ȝond. 260 Altogether should destroy

¹ MS. calla.

buton þær leave.
þe ur þij lif tiode.
þæt iſ ye eca.
and ye ælmihtiga.
Eorðe iſ hefignē.
oðrum gerceartum.
þicne geþnuen.
þorþam hio þnage yſtoð.
ealna gercearta.
undeſ niþemæſt.
buton þæm nōdeſe.
þe þaſ þuman gerceart.
æghpylce dæze.
utan ymhþyrfreð.
and þeah þærne eorðan.
æſne ne oðrīneð.
ne hine on nanje ne mot.
neaj þonne on oðrje.
yſtope gerceappan.
yſtūiceð ymbutan.
uſane ȝ neoþane.
eſen neah geþræþen.
æghpilc gerceart.
þe pe ymb yppecað.
hæfð hir aſenne.
eajd on yndjan.
bið þeah pið þæm oðrum.
eac ȝemenȝed.
Ne mæg hina ænig.

Without his leave,
Who to us this life decreed :
That is the Eternal,
And the Almighty.
265 Earth is heavier
Than other creatures,
More closely compressed ;
Because it long has stood
Of all creatures
270 *The* nethermost,
Except the sky,
Which this wide creation
Every day,
Moves round,
275 And yet the earth
Never touches ;
Nor can to it
In any place approach
Nearer than in another.
280 It holds its course around,
Above and beneath,
Equally near everywhere.
Every creature,
That we are speaking about,
285 Has its own
Station apart,
And yet is with the others
Also mixed.
Nor can any of them

butan oðnum bion.
 þeah hi unþeotole.
 ȝomoð eaþdien.
 ȝra nu eoþðe ȝ pæten.
 eaþfod tæcne.
 unriþna gehƿæm.
 puniað on ȝyne.
 þeah hi ȝint an.
 ȝþeotole þæm ƿyrum.
 Iþ ȝ ȝyri ȝra ȝame.
 ȝært on þæm pætne.
 and on ȝtanum eac.
 ȝtille geheded.
 eaþfod hape ȝr.
 hƿæþne þær hafðað.
 ȝæðer engla.
 ȝyri gebunden.
 efnæ to þon ȝætæ.
 þæt hit ȝiolan ne mæg.
 eft æt hit eðle.
 þær ȝ oþer ȝyri.
 up oþer eall þir.
 eaþð ȝæt punað.
 ȝona hit ȝoplæteð.
 þær lænan ȝerceaþt.
 mid cele oþer cumen.
 ȝif hit on cýððe ȝepit.
 and þeah puhta gehƿilc.
 ȝilnað ȝideþ-peaþð.

290 Without *the* others exist,
 Though they indistinctly
 Remain together ;
 As now earth and water
 Dwell in fire,
 295 Difficult to be shewn,
 To any of the unwise ;
 Though they are
 Clear to the learned.
 In like manner is fire
 300 Fast in the water,
 And in stones also
 Fixed hidden ;
 It is difficult to be seen.
 There however has
 305 *The* Father of angels
 Bound *the* fire
 Even so fast,
 That it cannot join itself
 Again to its own region,
 310 Where that other fire
 Up over all this
 Earth fast dwells.
 Soon it would leave
 This frail creation,
 315 Overcome with cold,
 If it to *its* country did depart ;
 And yet everything
 Tends thitherward,

þær hir mægðe bið. Where its kindred are
 mæjt ætgæðre. 320 Most together.

Du geftaþoladejt. Thou hast established,
 þurh þa^m ȝtþrongan meaht. Through thy strong might,
 ȝeroda pulðor cýning. Glorious King of Hosts !
 þundorlīce.

eoñhan ȝpa ȝæyte. 325 *The* earth so fast,
 þæt hio on ænige. That it on any
 healfe ne heldeð. Side halts not,
 ne mæg hio hider ne ȝider. Nor can it hither or thither
 ȝigan þe ȝriþor. Fall more
 þe hio ȝýmle ȝýðe. 330 Than it always did.

þræt hi þeah eoñðlicej. Although nothing
 auht ne haldeð. Earthly holds it,
 ȝf þeah efn eðe. Yet is it equally easy
 up and of ȝdne. To this earth,
 to ȝeallanne.

ȝoldan ȝyrre. 335 To fall
 þær anlicoȝt. Up and down ;
 þe on æge bið. Most like to which is *this*,
 ȝioleca on middan. That in an egg
 glideð ȝræþre. The yolk is in the middle,

ȝtneamaj ȝmbutan. 340 However rolls
 æg ȝmbutan. *The* egg about.
 ȝpa ȝtent eall peoruld. So stands all the world
 ȝttille on tille. Immoveable in its station,
 ȝtneamaj ȝmbutan. Above *the* streams,
 lagu-ȝloda ȝelac. 345 *The* assembly of waters.

^m þa is used in several places for þin.

lýrte j tungla.

and jio jcíre jcell.

jcírþeð ýmbutan.

ðoðora gehpilce.

ðýðe lange jra.

þpæt þu þiða Læd.

þmefalde on uj.

þaple gesettejt.

and hi jíðjan eac.

þtýnejt and tihetejt.

þuþh þa jctpongian meaht.

þæt hipe þy læjre.

on þæm lýtlan ne bið.

anum fíngre.

þe hipe on eallum bið.

þæm lichoman.

jorþæm ic lýtla æn.

þpeotole jæde.

þæt jio þapl pæne.

þmefalð gerceaft.

þegna gehpilcer.

jorþæm uðpitán.

ealle reggað.

þæt te an jecýnd.

ælcne jraule.

ýþrunz pæne.ⁿ

oþen pilnunz.

The air and stars,

And the pure shell,

Revolve about it,

Every day,

350 *As they long have done.*

Thou God of nations,

In us hast set

A threefold soul,

And also afterwards

355 *Movest and excitest it,*

By thy strong power;

That of it less

There should not be

In the little finger alone,

360 *Than there is of it*

In all the body.

Therefore a little before,

I clearly said,

That the soul is

365 *A threefold creation,*

Of every man;

Because philosophers

All say,

That one nature

370 *Of every soul*

Should be anger,

Another will;

iſ yſo þniðde gecynd.
 þæm tƿæm betere.
 yſo geſceadþiȝneſ.
 Niſ ſcandlic cƿæſt.
 ƿorþæm hit nænig haſað.
 neat buton monnum.
 hæſð þa oþra tƿa.
 unƿim puhta.
 hæſð þa pilnunȝa.
 pel hƿilc neten.
 and þa yñrunȝa.
 eac ypa yelȝe.
 ƿorþy men habbað.
 geond miðdan geaſd.
 eorð-geſcearta.
 ealle^o oſeñþungen.
 ƿorþæm þe hi habbað.
 þær þe hi nabbað.
 þone ænne cƿæſt.
 þe pe ær nemdon.
 Siſo geſceadþiȝneſ.
 ƿceal on ȝehpelcum.
 þæne pilnunge.
 palðan ƿemle.
 and yñrunȝe.
 eac ypa yelȝe.
 hio ƿceal mið geþeahte.

The third nature is
 Better than these two,
 375 *Namely*, reason.
 This is not a mean faculty,
 For it no beast possesses,
 But men *alone*.
 The other two
 380 Innumerable things possess.
 Well nigh every beast
 Has will,
 And anger
 Also of itself.
 385 Therefore men have
 Throughout *the* middle earth,
 Earthly creatures
 All surpassed ;
 Because they have
 390 That which these have not,
 The single faculty
 Which we before named.
 The reason ought
 In every one
 395 The will
 Always to govern,
 And anger
 Also of itself.
 She shall with counsel,

þegnēr mode.
 mid andgīte.
 eallej palðan.
 hio iſ þ mæſte mægen.
 monnēr ſaule.
 and ſe ſeleyta.
 yundor cnaefta.
 ñpæt þu þa ſaule.
 yzgoſa palðend.
 þeoda þrým-cýning.
 þuſ geſceope.
 þæt hio hpearfode.
 on hipe ſelſe.
 hipe utan ýmb.
 ſpa ſpa eal deð.
 nine ſpiſte ñodoſ.
 necene ýmbrcrýbeð.
 dozgoſa gehyrilce.
 Dñihtneſ meahtum.
 þiſne midban geaſd.
 ſpa deð monnēr ſaul.
 hpeole gelicort.
 hþærfeð ýmbe hý ſelſe.
 oſt ſmeagende.
 ýmb þaſ eoſſlican.
 Dñihtneſ geſcearta.
 ðaſgum iſ nihtum.
 hþilum hi ſelſe.
 ſecende ſmeað.

400 *And* with understanding,
 The mind of every man
 Govern.
 She is the greatest power
 Of man's soul,
 405 And the best
 Peculiar faculty.
 Thou the soul,
 Triumphant Ruler,
 Glorious King of nations,
 410 Thus didſt create,
 That it should turn
 On itself,
 And about itself,
 As does all
 415 The sky in its ſwift course :
 It ſwiftly revolves
 Every day,
 By the Lord's power
 Around this middle earth:
 420 So doth man's soul,
 Most like a wheel,
 Turn about herſelf,
 Oft inquiring
 About these earthly
 425 Creatures of the Lord,
 By day and night.
 Sometimes herſelf
 Seeking ſhe inquires.

hpilum eft ȝmeað.
ýmb þone ecan Ȥod.
ȝceppend hípe.
ȝcniþende ȝærð.
hpeole ȝelicoȝt.
hþærñð ýmb hí ȝelþe.
þonne hio ýmb hípe ȝcyppeñd.
mido ȝerceed ȝmeað.
hio bið upahæfen.
oþer hí ȝelþe.
ac hio bið eallunga.
an hípe ȝelþne.
þonne hio ýmb hí ȝelþe.
recende ȝmeað.
hio bið ȝriðe ȝiorn.
hípe ȝelþne beneoþan.
þonne hio þær lænan.
luðað ȝi ȝundrað.
eoðlicu ȝing.
oþer ecne næð.
Nþæt þu ece Ȥod.
eand ȝonzeare.
ȝaulum on heoþonum.
ȝeleȝt peoðlica.
ȝinþæfta ȝiȝa.
Ȥod ælmihtig.
be ȝe eanunȝa.
anþa ȝehþelcne.
ealle hí ȝcinað.

Sometimes again *she* inquires
430 About the eternal God,
Her Maker ;
She goes revolving
Most like a wheel,
Turns about herself.
When she about her Maker
Rationally inquires,
She is exalted
Above herself ;
But she is altogether
440 In herself
When she about herself
Seeking inquires.
She is very far
Beneath herself,
445 When she loves and admires
These transitory
Earthly things,
Above eternal knowledge.
Thou eternal God,
450 A dwelling givest
To souls in heaven ;
Thou wilt bestow honourable
And most ample gifts,
O God Almighty !
455 According to the deserts
Of every one.
They all shall shine

þuñh þa ȝcian neaht.
hadne on heorennum.
na hƿæþne þeah.
ealle efenbeophте.
Hƿæt pe oft ȝerioð.
hadnum nihtum.
þæt te heorun-ȝteorun. Through the clear night
Serene in *the* heavens;
ealle efenbeophте. 460 Yet nevertheless not
All equally bright.
æfne ne ȝcnað.^p Thus we often see
In clear nights,
Hƿæt þu ece Ȥod.
eac gemengeft.
þa heofoncundan.
hƿeþrið eorþan.
raula rið lice.
riðþan puniað.
þiȝ eorðlice.
and ȝ ece ȝamod.
ȝaul in ȝlæfce. 465 That the stars of heaven
All equally bright,
Ever do not shine.
Hƿæt hi ȝimle to þe.
hiona^q ȝundiað.
ȝorþæm hi hider of þe.
ænor comon.
ȝculon eft to þe.
ȝceal ȝe lichama.
layt peandigan. 470 Thou, eternal God,
Also mixest
The heavenly
475 Here with *the* earth ;
Souls with bodies
Afterwards remain ;—
This earthly
And the heavenly together,—
475 *The* soul in *the* flesh.
But they always to thee
Hence tend,
Because they hither from thee
Before came ;
480 They shall again *come* to thee.
The body shall
At length dwell

^p The same reasoning is here used as that which St. Paul beautifully employed on a different subject. See 1 Cor. xv. 41.

^q MS. hi on.

eft on eorþan.
þorþam he ær of hipe.
peox on peorulde.
punedon æt ƿomne.
efen ƿa lange.
ƿa him lȳfed ƿær.
ƿnom þam ælmihtigan.
þe hi ænroj ȝio.
ȝefomnade.
þæt is ƿoð cýning.
re þas ƿolðan ȝefceop.
and hi ȝefylde þa.
ȝriðe miȝlicum.
mine ȝerþæge.
neata cýnum.
neȝend uȝer.
he hi ȝiðhan aȝiop.
ȝæda moneȝum.
ƿuda ȝ ƿýnta.
peorulde ȝeatum.
þorȝif nu ece God.
upum modum.
þæt hi moten to þe.
metod alpuhta.
þuȝh þas eaȝroðu.
up aȝtigan.
and of þiȝum býȝegum.
bilepit ȝæðen.
þeoda palðend.

Again in *the* earth,
Because it before therefrom
485 Grew in the world.
They dwelled together
Even as long
As to them was permitted
By the Almighty,
490 Who them before
United together.
That is the true King,
Who this earth created,
And it filled
495 With very various
Kinds of cattle,
In my opinion,
Our Redeemer.
He afterwards sowed it
500 With many seeds
Of trees and herbs,
In *the* worldly regions.
Grant now, eternal God,
To our minds,
505 That they may to thee.
O Creator of all things,
Through these difficulties
Ascend :
And from these occupations,
510 Merciful Father,
Ruler of nations,

to þe cuman. To thee come ;
 and þonne mid openum. And then may,
 eagan moten. With *the open eyes*
 moder uper. 515 Of our mind,
 þuñh þinna mægna yped. Through *the efficacy* of thy power,
 æpelm ȝerion. Behold *the fountain*
 eallna gooda. Of all goods ;
 þæt þu eajt yelja. That thou thyself art,
 yuge Dnuhten God. 520 O Lord God of victory !
 ge þa eagan hal. Make sound the eyes
 uper moder. Of our mind,
 þæt pe hi on þe yelcum. That we on thyself
 yðþan moten. Afterwards may
 afægtnian.^r 525 Fix them,
 yædeñ engla. O Father of angels !
 toðnif þone þiccan mist. Dispel the thick mist,
 þe ȝnige nu. Which now long while
 pið þa eagan ȝofan. Before the eyes
 uper moder. 530 Of our mind
 hanȝode hyle. Has hung,
 hefiz ȝ ȝýtpe. Heavy and dark.
 Onliht nu þa eagan. Enlighten now the eyes
 uper moder. Of our mind
 mid þinum leohte. 535 With thy light,
 lifer ȝaldend. Ruler of life ;
 ȝofþæm þu eajt yio bishtu. For thou art the brightness,
 bileyit yædeñ. O merciful Father,

^r MS. afægtnian.

roþer leohter.
 and þu ƿelþa eapt.
 ƿio ƿæfte næjt.
 ƿæðen ælmihtig.
 eallþa ƿoðfæjtþa.
 Hƿæt þu ƿorþe gedeyt.
 þæt hi ƿe ƿelþne.
 ȝerion moten.
 Du eapt eallþa ƿinga.
 ƿeoda ƿalbend.
 ƿruma ȝ ende.
 Hƿæt þu ƿæðen engla.
 eall ƿing biperjt.
 eþelice.
 buton ȝerpince.
 Du eapt ƿelþa peg.
 and latteop eac.
 hƿigendþa gehpær.
 and ƿio plitige ƿtop.
 ƿe ƿe peg to higð.
 ƿe ealle to.
 á ƿundið.
 men of moldan.
 on þa mænjan ȝerceaft.

Of *the* true light:
 540 And thou thyself art
 The firm rest,
 O Father Almighty !
 Of all the faithful.
 Indeed thou causest,
 545 That they thyself
 May see.
 Thou art of all things,
 O Ruler of nations !
The beginning and end.
 550 Thou, Father of angels,
 All things bearest
 Easily,—
 Without labour.
 Thou art thyself *the* way,
 555 And also *the* guide,
 Of every one of *the* living ;
 And the fair place,
 That the way leads to.
 To thee all
 560 Men of earth,
 In the great creation
 Always tend !

* MS. aƿundið, as one word.

METRE XXI.¹

Þel la monna bearn.
 geond midban geard.
 fñiopa æghpilc.
 fundie to þam.
 ecum gode.
 þe pe ýmb yppecað.
 and to þam gejælþum.
 þe pe recgað ýmb.
 Se þe þonne nu rie.
 nearpe gehefted.
 mid þijrey mæpan.
 midban geardær.
 unnyttre lufe.
 rece him eft hraðe.
 fulne fñiodom.
 þæt he yorð cume.
 to þam gejælþum.
 raula næder.
 yorþæm þi yro ana^u nejt. For that is the only rest
 eallra geþinca.

WELL, O children of men,
 Throughout *the* middle earth !
 Let every one of *the* free
 Aspire to the
 5 Eternal good,
 Which we are speaking about ;
 And to the felicities,
 That we are telling of.
 Let him who is now
 10 Straitly bound
 With *the* vain love
 Of this great
 Middle earth,
 Also quickly seek for himself
 15 Full freedom,
 That he may arrive
 At the felicities,
 For *the* good of souls.
 20 Of all labours,

^t Boet. Lib. iii. Met. x. Huc omnes pariter venite capti, &c.

^u MS. an.

hyhtlicu hýð.
heaum ceolum.
môder uffær.
mejne ymýlta pic.
þæt iſ río ana* hýð.
þe æfne bið.
æfteſ þam yþum.
uþa geþinca.
yþta gehþelcne.
ealnig ymýlte.
þæt iſ río fþið-yþor.
and río fþoror ana.*
eallra yþminda.
æfteſ þiþrum.
peoruld-geþincum.
þæt iſ yþnýum yþor.
æfteſ þiþrum yþmþum.
to aȝanne.
Ac ic georne pat.
þæt te ȝýðen maðm.
yþlofpen yinc.
ytan-yeapo ȝimma nan.
middengænderþela.
môder eagan.
æfne ne onlyhtæð.
auht ne ȝebetað.
hiopa yceapnere.

*The desirable haven
To the lofty ships
Of our mind ;
A great tranquil station ;
25 That is the only haven
Which ever is,
After the waves
Of our labours,
And every storm,
30 Always calm.
That is the refuge,
And the only comfort
Of all *the* wretched,
After these
35 Worldly labours.
That is a pleasant place,
After these miseries,
To possess.
But I well know,
40 That neither golden vessels,
Nor heaps of silver,
Nor precious stones,
Nor the wealth of the middle earth,
The eyes of *the* mind
45 Ever enlighten,
Nor aught improve
Their sharpness,*

to þærne yceapunga.
yðra geþelþa.
ac hi yriþor ȝet.
monna gehpelcey.
mōðer eagan.
ablendað on bneortum.
þonne hi hi beorhtoran ȝedon. Than make them clearer.
þorhæm æghƿilc þing.
þe on þy andpeaðan.
hƿe licað.
lænu ȝindon.
eorðlicu þing.
á ȝleondu.
ac þ ƿrundorhlic.
þlitr and beorhtney.
þe ruhta gehƿær.
þlitr ȝebenhted.
and æftey þæm.
eallum palðeð.
Nele ƿe palðend.
þæt ƿorpeorþan ƿylen.
raula uyrre.
ac he hi ȝelfa pile.
leoman onhlhtan.
hƿer palðend.
Eif þonne hæleþa hƿilc.
hlutrum eazum.
mōðer ȝiney mæg.
æfne ofrion.

To the contemplation
Of true felicities.
50 But they rather,
The mind's eyes
Of every man,
Make blind in *their* breasts,
þonne hi hi beorhtoran ȝedon. Than make them clearer.
55 For everything
That in this present
Life delights,
Are poor
Earthly things,
60 Ever fleeting.
But wonderful is that
Splendour and brightness,
Which every one of things
With splendour enlightens,
65 And afterwards,
Entirely rules.
The Ruler wills not
That our souls
Shall perish;
70 But he himself will them
With a ray illumine,
The Ruler of life!
If then any man,
With *the* clear eyes
75 Of his mind, may
Ever behold

hiofōnēr leohter.
hlutþe beophtho.
þonne pile he ȝecgan.
þæt ȝærne ȝunnan ȝie.
beophthnēr ȝioþþo.
beoþna ȝehþylcum.
to metanne.
þið þ micle leoht.
Lōder ȝelmihtiger.
þæt iȝ ȝayta ȝehþæm.
ece butan ende.
eaðeȝum ȝaulum.

*The clear brightness
Of heaven's light,
Then will he say,
80 That the brightness of the sun
Is darkness,
To every man,
Compared with
That great light
85 Of God Almighty,
That is to every soul,
Eternal without end,
To blessed souls !*

METRE XXII.

Se ȝe æfter ȝihte.
mid ȝenece.
pille inpearðlice.
æfter ȝrypnian.
iȝa ȝeoplice.
þæt hit toðriðan ne maȝ.
monna ȝenig.
ne ameȝpan huru.
ȝenig eoȝðlic ȝincȝ.

WHOSOEVER after truth
With skill,
Will inwardly
Inquire,
5 So profoundly,
That no man may
Dissipate it ;
Nor any earthly thing
At all corrupt it ;

he æneſt ſceal.
 ſecan on him ſelſum.
 þæt he ſume hpile.
 ýmbutan hine.
 ænoſt rohte.
 ſece þæt riðhan.
 on hiſ ſefan innan.
 and ſoplæte* an.
 ýpa he oftort mæge.
 ælcne* ýmbhogan.
 þy him unnet ſie.
 and geſamniſe.
 ýpa he ſpiſoſt mæge.
 ealle to þæm anum.
 hiſ ingeþonc.
 geſecge hiſ mod.
 þæt hit mæg fiſdan.
 eall on him innan.
 þæt hit oftort nu.
 ýmbutan hit.
 ealneſ ſeceð.
 gooda æghyſlc.
 he ongiſ riðhan.
 ýfel ſ unnet.
 eal þ he hæſðe.
 on hiſ incoſan.

10 He shall first
 Seek in himself,
 That which he some while
 Before sought,
 About him ;
 15 *He* must afterwards seek that
 Within his mind ;
 And forsake,
 As he soonest may,
 Every anxiety,
 20 Which to him is profitless ;
 And resort,
 As he best may,
 Entirely to this alone,
Namely, his mind.
 25 *He* must say to his mind,
 That it may find,
 Entirely in itself,
 That which it oftenest now,
 Around it
 30 Everywhere seeks,—
 Every one of goods.
 He will then find
 Evil and useless,
 All that he had
 35 In his breast,

* ſoplæte an is probably put for anſoplæte.

† MS. ælcne.

ærþor lange. Long before;
 efnæ ȝra ȝpeotole. Even as clearly.
 ȝra he on þa ȝunnan mæg. As he on the sun may
 eazum andþeapðum. With present eyes
 onlocian.
 and hī eac ongīt. 40 Look.
 hīs inȝeþonc.
 leohtþe ȝ beþtþe. And he also will perceive
 þonne ȝe leoma ȝie. His understanding
 ȝunnan on ȝumera. Lighter and more bright,
 þonne ȝpeglef ȝim. Than is the beam
 hāðor heofon-tungol. 45 Of *the* sun in summer,
 hlutþoþt ȝcineð. When *the* gem of the sky,
 ȝorþæm þær lichoman. *The* serene heaven star,
 leahtrþaȝ ȝ hefȝneȝ. Clearest shines.
 and þa unþeapȝ. For the sins and heaviness,
 eallunga ne magon. 50 And the vices
 of mode ation.
 monna æneȝum.
 ȝihtþiȝneȝ. Of the body,
 Ðeah nu ȝinca hƿæm. Altogether may not
 þær lichoman.
 leahtrþaȝ ȝ hefȝneȝ. From *the* mind draw
 and unþeapȝ. In any man,
 oft býrȝen.
 monna mod-ȝefan.
 mæȝt and ȝriþoȝt.
 mid þærne ȝplan. 55 Virtue.
 Though now in every man,
 The sins and heaviness,
 And *the* vices
 Of the body,
 60 Often trouble
 The mind of men,
 And most especially
 With the evil

oþorþiotolneſſe. ^b	Forgetfulness ;
mid geþpol-miſte.	65 And with <i>the</i> mist of error
þneorþigne reſan.	Before the mind, alarms
þoþtið mod foþan.	The dreary intellect
monna geþpelceſ.	Of every man,
þæt hit ypa beoþte ne mot.	That it so bright cannot
blican and ^c ycinan.	70 Glitter and shine,
ypa hit polde gif.	As it would if
hit gepealð ahte.	It power possessed.
þeah bið yum coþn.	Yet is some grain
þædeſ gehealdeſ.	Of <i>the</i> seed of truth
yimle on þæne ſaule.	75 Always retained
þoðfæſtneſſe.	In the soul,
þenden ȝadentang punað.	While united dwells
ȝaſt on lice.	<i>The</i> soul in <i>the</i> body.
þær ȝædeſ coþn.	<i>The</i> grain of this seed
bið yimle apeaht.	80 Is always excited
mid aſcunga.	By inquiry,
eac yiðhan.	And moreover,
mid goodne lape.	By good instruction,
giſ hit ȝnopen yceal.	If it shall grow.
hu mæg ænið man.	85 How can any man
andþpape fiðan.	Find <i>an</i> answer
þinga æniðer.	To anything,
þegen ^d mid geſceade.	At least with reason,

^b MS. oþorþiotolneſſe.^c MS. an.^d þegen is obscure ; and although I am not satisfied with the translation of this line, I cannot think of a better.

þeah hine ƿinca hƿilc.
 ƿihtƿiſtice.
 æfter ƿiȝne.
 ȝif he apuht naðað.
 on hiȝ mod-ƿefan.
 mycley ne lycley.
 ƿihtƿiſneſſer.
 ne ȝenadyciper.
 niȝ þeah ænig man.
 þæt te ealleȝ ƿpa.
 þær ȝenadyciper.
 ƿpa beneaſtð ȝie.
 þæt he andƿapane.
 ænige ne cunne.
 ƿindan on ƿeſhðe.
 ȝif he ƿiȝnen bið.
 ƿorþæm hit iȝ ƿiht ƿpell.
 þæt uȝ ƿeahte ȝio.
 eald uðpita.
 upre Platon.
 he cpæð þ te æghƿilc.
 unȝemýndig.
 ƿihtƿiſneſſe.
 hine hƿæðe ȝceolde.
 eft ȝependan.
 into ƿinum.
 modeȝ ȝemýnde.
 he mæȝ ƿiðþan.
 on hiȝ ƿun-cofan.

Though after it
 90 Any man should
 Wisely inquire,
 If he has not
 Aught in his mind,
 Much or little
 95 Of wisdom,
 Or prudence ?
 But there is no man
 That altogether is
 Of prudence
 100 So bereaved,
 That he any answer
 Cannot find
 In *his* mind,
 If he be questioned.
 105 Therefore it is a true saying,
 Which formerly our Plato,
 The ancient philosopher
 Said to us ;
 He said that every one
 110 Unmindful
 Of wisdom,
 Should immediately
 Turn himself
 To his own
 115 Memory :
 He may then,
 In his breast

þihtþiȝnejję.	Wisdom
þindan on ȝefhte.	Find in <i>his</i> mind,
ȝærte gehýðde.	Closely concealed
mid ȝeðræfnejję.	By the trouble
ðoðora gehþilce.	Of his mind,
modej ȝinej.	Every day,
mæjt ȝ ȝriþoȝt.	Most especially;
and mid heþinejję.	125 And by <i>the</i> heaviness
hij lichoman.	Of his body;
and mid þæm biȝgum.	And by the cares,
þe on bneoȝtum ȝtýpeð.	Which in <i>the</i> breast agitate
mon on mode.	Men's minds
mæla gehþylce.	130 Every moment.

METRE XXIII.*

Sie þ la on eoȝhan.	Lo ! now on earth is he
ælcerj ȝingerj.	In every thing
ȝeræliz mon.	A happy man,
ȝif he ȝejon mæge.	If he may see
þone hlutþeytan.	5 The clearest
heorpon-ȝoȝhtan ȝtþream.	Heaven shining stream,
æþelne æpelm.	<i>The</i> noble fountain
ælcerj goðerj.	Of all good !

* Boet. Lib. iii. Met. xii. *Felix qui potuit boni, &c.*

and of him selfum.
 þone ȝeaptan mist.
 modey þiostro.
 mæg aƿeƿpan.
 ȝe ȝculon þeah gitæ.
 mid ȝroðer ȝylte.
 ealdum ȝ leaðum.
 þinne ȝeþþonc.
 betan býpellum.
 þæt þu ȝe bet mæge.
 aƿedian to ƿodorum.
 nihte ȝtige.
 on ȝone ecan eard.
 uþra ȝaula.

And of himself
 10 The swarthy mist,
 The darkness of *the* mind
 Can dispel !
 We will as yet,
 With God's help,
 15 With old and fabulous
 Stories instruct
 Thy mind ;
 That thou the better mayst
 Discover to *the* skies
 20 The right path ;
 To the eternal region
 Of our souls.

METRE XXIV.¹

ic hæbbe ȝiðnu.
 ȝugle ȝpiftan.
 mid þæm ic ȝleogan mæg.
 ȝeo ȝnam eorþan.
 oþer heane hnoð.
 heorþoney ȝijjer.
 ac ȝær ic nu moyste.

I HAVE wings
 Swifter than a bird,
 With which I can fly
 Far from earth,
 5 Over the lofty roof
 Of this heaven.
 But I must now,

¹ Boet. Lib. IV. Met. I. Sunt etenim pennæ volucres mihi, &c.

mod *gerefjan*.
 þinne *feſſ-locan*.
feſſnum minum.
oðþæt þu meahte.
þyrne midðan geaſd.
ælc eorðlic þing.
eallunga fofyri.
Meahter oþer nōðorūm.
gefeclice.
feſſerum lacan.
þeoñ up oþer.
polcnu pindan.
plitan ȳðþan uſan.
oþer ealle.
Meahter eac ȳajan.
oþer þæm ȳne.
þe ȳela geaſa ȳon.
lange betþeoꝝ.
lyfte ȳ nōðer.
ȳpa him æt ȳnýmðe.
þæder ȳetiðe.
Ðu meahtert þe ȳðþan.
mid þærne ȳunnan.
ȳajan betþeoꝝ.
oþnum tunglum.
Meahtert þe ȳfull necen.
on þæm nōðerne uſan.
ȳðþan peorþan.
and þonne ȳamtengi.

O mind, give wings to
 Thy bosom,
 10 With my feathers,
 That thou mayest
 This middle earth,
 And every earthly thing,
 Altogether look down upon.
 15 Thou mayest above the skies
 Extensively
 With thy wings sport ;
 Far up above
 The clouds wander,
 20 And afterwards from above
 Look down over all.
 Thou mayest also go
 Above the fire,
 Which many years has gone
 25 Long betwixt
 The air and sky ;
 As to it at the beginning,
 The Father appointed.
 Thou mayest afterwards,
 30 With the sun,
 Go betwixt
 The other stars.
 Thou mayest full quickly,
 In the sky above,
 35 Afterwards advance ;
 And then immediately

æt þæm æl-cealðan.
 anum ȝteorþan.
 ȝe ȝfmejτ ȝf.
 eallja tungla.
 þone Satuƿnūj.
 ȝund-buende hatað.
 undeŋ heorðonum.
 he ȝf ȝe cealða.
 eall ȝfjig tungel.
 ȝfemējτ ƿandþað.
 oþeŋ eallum uðan.
 oþlum ȝteorþum.
 ȝiðþan þu þonne.
 þone upahafjæt.
 ȝoŋð oþeŋ-ȝafenne.
 þu meaht ȝeorȝian.
 þonne být þu ȝiðþan.
 ȝona oþeŋ uppán.
 noðeŋe ȝýne ȝrýftum.
 ȝif þu niht ȝæræjt.
 þu^e þone hehýtan heorðon.
 behindan læjt.
 Donne meaht þu ȝiðþa.
 ȝoþer leohter.
 habban þinne dæl.
 þonan an cýning.
 ȝume ȝicjað.

To that all cold,
 Solitary star,
 Which highest is
 40 Of all *the* stars;
 Him Saturn
 Sailors call
 Under *the* heavens.
 He is the cold
 45 All icy star,
And highest wanders,
 Above all
 Other stars.
 After thou then
 50 Hast advanced,
 To pass by him,
 Thou mayest go far.
 Then thou wilt afterwards be
 Soon above
 55 *The* sky in its swift course.
 If thou rightly goest,
 The highest heaven
 Thou shalt leave behind.
 Then mayest thou afterwards
 60 Have thy portion
 Of *the* true light.
 From whence one king
 Widely reigns,

ofer ƿuderum up.
 and under ƿra ƿame.
 eallra ȝerceafta.
 ƿeorulde palðeð.
 Ðæt is ƿiȝ cýning.
 þæt is ƿe be palðeð.
 ȝiond ƿej-þiða.
 ealra oþra.
 eorðan cýninga.
 ƿe mid hif brydle.
 ȝmbe bæted hæfð.
 ȝymbryþt ealne.
 eorðan ȝ heoroneȝ.
 He hif ȝepald-leheȝ.
 ƿel ȝemetgað.
 ƿe ȝtoreð á.
 þurh þa ȝtjorntan meaht.
 þæm hraðræne.
 heoroneȝ and eorðan.
 ƿe an dema ȝr.
 ȝercaðþig.
 unapendendlic.
 plitig ȝ mæne.
 Siȝ þu ƿyrȝt on.
 ƿeȝe nihtum.
 up to þæm eajde.
 þæt is æhele ȝtop.
 þeah þu hi nu ȝeta.
 ȝorȝten hæbbe.

Up above *the* skies ;
 65 And also under *them*,
 All worldly
 Creatures governs.
 This is *the* wise king,
 This is he who rules,
 70 Throughout nations,
 All other
 Earthly kings.
 He with his bridle,
 Has encompassed
 75 *The* whole orb
 Of earth and heaven.
 He his reins
 Well regulates,
 Who ever guides,
 80 By his strong power,
 The chariot
 Of heaven and earth.
 He is the only judge,
 Stedfast,
 85 Unchangeable,
 Splendid and great.
 If thou returnest along
The right way,
 Up to that region,
 90 It is thy native place,
 Though thou at present
 Hast forgotten it.

gīf þu ær ne.
eft þær an cymeſt.
þonne pilt þu recȝan.
and ȝona cƿeþan.
þij ȝ eallunga.
min aȝen cȳð.
eaþd and eþel.
ic pær ær hionan.
cumen ȝ acenned.
þuþh þijjer cƿæſtȝan meaht.
nýlle ic ær ne hionan.
ut pitan.
ac ic ȝymle heþ.
rɔfte pille.
mid ƿæðeþ ƿillan.
ræyte ȝtondan.
Lij þe þonne ær ne.
eft geþeoþheð.
þæt þu pilt oððe moȝt.
peopolde þiostro.
eft ȝandian.
þu meaht eaðe ȝerion.
unþihtþire.
eoþan cýningar.
and þa oþeimodan.
oþre ȝican.
þe þij ƿeƿige ȝolc.
pýrȝt tuciað.
þæt he ȝymle bíoð.

If thou ever
Again there comest,
95 Then wilt thou say,
And soon declare,
" This is altogether
" My own country,
" Residence, and native soil.
100 " I formerly hence
" Came and was born,
" Through the Creator's power.
" Never will I hence
" Depart:
105 " But I ever here,
" Will gladly,
" With *the* Father's will,
" Firmly stand."
If it then ever
110 Again should happen,
That thou wilt or must,
The world's darkness,
Again explore,
Thou mayest easily see
115 *The* unrighteous
Earthly kings,
And the other
Arrogant rich,
Who this abject people
120 Worst torment;
That they always are

þriðe eafme.	Very poor,
unmehtige.	Impotent
ælcer þinger.	In every thing;
emne þa ilcan.	125 Even the same,
þe þij eafme folc.	That this wretched people,
þume hyle nu.	Somewhile now,
þriþost onðræðeð.	Most dreads.

METRE XXV.^a

Lehej nu an ȝpell.	HEAR now a discourse
be þæm oþermodum.	Concerning the proud
unrihtigum.	Unrighteous
eoþjan cýningum.	Kings of the earth;
þa hej nu manegum.	5 Who here now with many
and miȝlicum.	And various
pæðum plite-beophtum.	Splendid garments
pundrum ȝcinað.	Wonderfully shine;
on heah-reclum.	On thrones,
hnofe ȝetenge.	10 With canopies reclining :
golde ȝegeþede.	Clothed with gold,
and ȝimcýnum.	And jewels;
utan ȝmbe ȝtanðne.	Surrounded
mid unþime.	With an innumerable <i>crowd</i>

^a Boet. Lib. iv. Met. ii. Quos vides sedere celso, &c.

þegna ȝ eorla.
 þa bið ȝehýrjte.
 mið hefe-ȝeatpum.
 hilðe ȝohtum.
 ȝreorðum ȝ ȝetelum.
 ȝriðe ȝeglenðe.
 and þegnað.
 ȝrýmme mycle.
 ælc oþrum.
 and hi ealle him.
 þonan mið þy ȝrýmme.
 ȝneatiað ȝehvíðen.
 ȝymb-ȝittenda.
 oþra þeoda.
 and ȝe hlaðorð ne ȝerwifð.
 þe þær hefe palðeð.
 ȝreonde ne ȝeonde.
 ȝeore ne æhtum.
 ac he neþig-moð.
 næjt on ȝehvílcne.
 neðe hunde.
 puhta ȝelicort.
 Bið to upahæfen.
 inne on moðe.
 ȝor þær anpalðe.
 þe him anra ȝehvílc.
 hif ȝip-pina.
 to ȝultemað.
 Lijf mon þonne polðe.

15 Of thanes and earls,
 Who are adorned
 With weapons,
 Illustrious in battle ;
 With swords and belts
 20 Greatly distinguished ;
 And each one
 With much magnificence
 Serves another ;
 And they all *serve* him.
 25 From thence with their magnificence
 They everywhere strike terror,
 Into other
 Surrounding nations ;
 And the Lord regards not,
 30 Who rules that crowd,
 Friend or foe,
 Life or goods ;
 But he fierce in mind,
 Rushes on every one,
 35 Most like of *all* things
 To a fierce dog.
 He is too much raised
 In his mind,
 Through the power,
 40 Which for him each one
 Of his beloved chiefs
 Supports.
 If then any one would

him apindan or.
 þær cýne-geñelum.
 clafa gehpilcne.
 and him þonne oþtton.
 þapa þegnunga.
 and þær anpalðer.
 þe he heþ hæfðe.
 þonne meaht þu geþion.
 þæt he bið yriðe gelic.
 ynum þapa gumenā.
 þe him georنوt nu.
 mid þegnungsū.
 þringað ymbe utan.
 gif hi yþyrja ne bið.
 ne pene ic hiȝ na betepan. I think he is no better.
 Enȝ him þonne ærne.
 unmendlinga.
 peas gebeñede.
 þæt him puñde oþtogen.
 þrýmmer ȝ pæða.
 and þegnunga.
 and þær anpalðer.
 þe pe ymbe ypprecað.
 gif him ænig þapa.
 oþhende yþjð.
 ic pat ȝ him þinceð.
 þæt he þonne ȝie.
 becopen on capcejn.
 oððe coðlice.

From him strip off
 45 These kingly robes,—
 Each of his garments,—
 And from him then take away
 That retinue,
 And that power,
 50 Which he here had;
 Then mightest thou see
 That he is very like
 Any of those men,
 Who now most anxiously
 55 With services
 Crowd about him.
 If he is no worse,
 ne pene ic hiȝ na betepan. I think he is no better.
 If then ever to him,
 60 Unexpectedly,
 It by chance happened,
 That from him were taken
 His splendour and clothes,
 And retinue,
 65 And the power
 That we are speaking of;
 If from him any of these
 Were taken away,
 I wot that it would seem to him
 70 That he were then
 Crept into prison,
 Or surely

pacentan ȝenæped.
 Ic ȝeneccan mæg.
 þæt of unȝemetē.
 ælcer ȝinger.
 riȝte ȝ ræda.
 ƿin-ȝedrincey.
 and of ȝret-metann.
 ȝriþoȝt peaxað.
 þæne ƿrænneȝre.
 ƿod-þraȝ micel.
 ȝio ȝriðe ȝedræfð.
 ȝefan inȝehyð.
 monna ȝehpelcer.
 þonan mæjt cymeð.
 ȝæla oþeȝmeta.
 unnetta ȝaca.
 Donne hi ȝebolȝene ƿeoriþað. When they become enraged
 him ƿyrð on ƿreoytum inne. Within their breasts
 beȝrunȝen ȝera on hreȝne.¹ Their inward mind is scourged
 mid þam ȝriþan pelme.
 hat-heoȝtneȝre.
 and hreðe ȝiðhan.
 unþotneȝre.
 eac ȝeneæped.
 heaðe ȝehæfted.
 him ȝiðhan onȝinð.

Bound with chains.
 I can shew,
 75 That from excess
 Of every thing,
 Of food and clothes,
 Of wine-drink,
 And of sweet meats,
 80 Chiefly grows
 The great fury
 Of lust,
 Which much troubles
 The thoughts of the mind
 85 Of every man :
 Whence chiefly comes
 Evil arrogance,
 And unprofitable strifes.
 Donne hi ȝebolȝene ƿeoriþað. When they become enraged
 him ƿyrð on ƿreoytum inne. Within their breasts
 beȝrunȝen ȝera on hreȝne.¹ Their inward mind is scourged
 mid þam ȝriþan pelme.
 hat-heoȝtneȝre.
 And afterwards,
 95 Cruel sorrow
 Also binds *them*,
 Fast enslaved.
 To them afterwards

¹ MS. hƿaȝne. Lye acknowledges this word; but as he has no authority for its use besides what he finds here, I am inclined to consider it as an error, and have corrected it accordingly.

sum tohopa.
 ȿpīðe leogan.
 þær ȝepinnes ȝræce.
 pilnað ȝ iþne.
 aner and ofþer.
 him ȝ eall gehat.
 hir necelejt.
 ȝihter ne ȝcūfēð.
 Ic ȝe ȝæde ær.
 on ȝiyrre ȝeljan bec.
 þat ȝumej ȝooder.
 ȝidna ȝerceafta.
 anleppa ælc.
 a pilnōðe.
 ȝor hir ȝagenum.
 ealð-ȝecyndē.
 unþihtpijre.
 eorþan cýningar.
 ne magon æfje ȝuþtion.
 apuht ȝooder.
 ȝor þæm ȝyle.
 þe ic ȝe ær ȝæde.
 Niȝ ȝ nan ƿundor.
 ȝorþæm hu ƿillað hu.
 þæm unþeapum.
 þe ic ȝe ær nemðe.
 anpa ȝehpelcum.
 a unþeodan.
 Sceal ȝonne neðe.

Some hope begins
 100 Greatly to lie.
 Revenge of battle
 Anger desires
 Of one or other.
 His security promises
 105 All that to him,
But cares not for right.
 I told thee before
 In this same book,
 That every one
 110 Of various creatures,
 Ever desired
 Some good,
 Through his own
 Original nature.
 115 *But* unrighteous
 Earthly kings
 May never accomplish
 Aught of good,
 On account of the evil,
 120 Which I before mentioned to thee.
 That is no wonder,
 For they are willing,
 To the vices,
 Which I before named to thee,
 125 To each one,
 Ever to submit.
He shall then necessarily

neanþe gebugan.
to þana hlafrjða.
hæfte dome.
þe he hine eallunga.
ær undeþbiððe.
þæt iſ rýrje zet.
þæt he pinnan nýle.
pið þæm anpalðe.
ænige yctunde.
þær he polðe á.
pinnan onginnan.
and þonne on þæm zepinne. And then in the contest,
þuþhpunian þorð.
þonne næfðe he.
nane ycylðe.
þeah he oferþunnen.
þeoþjan yceolðe.

Strictly bend
To the captivity
130 Of those lords,
That he himself entirely
Before submitted to.
This is still worse,
That he will not strive
135 Against that power,
At any time.
If he ever would
Begin to strive,
140 Afterwards persist,
Then would he have
No guilt;
Though he should be
Overcome.

METRE XXVI.*

Ic þe mæg eaðe.
ealdum y leaſum.
yſtellum andþeccan.
yppæce zelicne.

I CAN easily to thee,
From old and fabulous
Stories relate
A tale similar to

* Boet. Lib. iv. Met. iii. Vela Neritii ducis, &c.

efen þijre ilcan.
 þe pit ýmþpnecað.
 Hit gerælde gio.
 on ƿume tīde.
 þæt Aulixer.
 under-hærðe.
 þæm Ȟarene.¹
 cýne-ƿicu tƿa.
 He pær Ȟnacia.^m
 þiða alðor.
 and Retie.
 nicej híjde.
 Þær híj ƿne-aðuhtnej.
 folc-cuð nama.
 Agamemnon.
 je ealler peold.
 Ȟreca nicej.
 Euð pær ƿibe.
 þæt on þa tīde.
 Tjoriana ȝepin.
 peanð under polcnum.
 for píger-heað.
 Ȟreca ðuhten.
 camp-ȝted ƿecan.

5 Even this same,
 That we are speaking of.
 It happened formerly,
 At a certain time,
 That Ulysses
 10 Had under
 The emperor
 Two kingdoms.
 He was of *the* Thracian
 Provinces chief;
 15 And of *the* kingdom
 Of Retia ruler.
 His supreme Lord's
 Celebrated name
 Was Agamemnon;
 20 Who governed all
The kingdom of *the* Greeks.
 It was widely known,
 That at that time
The Trojan war
 25 Happened under *the* clouds.
 Forth went *the* leader of war,
The lord of *the* Greeks,
 To seek *the* place of battle.

¹ An indefinite title of honour.

^m Ulysses was King of Ithaca, and had no dominions in Thrace: probably Alfred was led into this error by some bardic history of the murder of Rhesus, and the defeat of the Thracians by Ulysses. See Note 147 in Cardale's edition of the Prose of Boethius.

Aulixer mid.	Ulysses with him
an hund ȝcipa.	30 A hundred of ships
lædðe ofej lagu-ȝtream.	Led over the ocean,
þæt longe þær.	<i>And</i> sat long there,—
týn pintær full.	Ten winters full.
Da ⁿ ȝio tid ȝelomp,	When the time came,
þæt hi þ rice.	35 That they that kingdom
ȝepæht hæfðon.	Had subdued,
ðiope ȝecepte.	Dearly won
ðnihten ȝpeca.	<i>The lord of the Greeks,</i>
Troya buph.	<i>The city of Troy,</i>
tilum ȝerþum.	40 With <i>his</i> brave companions ;
þa þa ^o Aulixer.	Then when Ulysses
leafe hæfðe.	Had permission,
Ðnacia ^p cýning.	(King of Thracia,)
þæt he þonan moþte.	That he thence might <i>depart</i> ,
he let him behindan.	45 He left behind him,
hýrnde ciolay.	Beaked ships,
nig ^z on ȝ hund nigontig.	Ninety and nine.
nænig ^z ȝonan.	From thence none
mepe-henȝeyta.	Of <i>the</i> sea horses
ma þonne ænne.	50 More than one,
ȝeþede on ȝifel ^r ȝtream.	Went by the Fifel stream,
ȝamig-bofðon.	With foamy banks ;

ⁿ MS. Ðe.^o MS. þu.^p See a preceding note.^q MS. nænig^z.^r The real meaning of ȝifel is obscure. See Note 192, in Cardale's Prose Boethius.

þriegerþre ceol.
 þæt bið þ mæste.
 Erecisca scipa.
 þa peajð cealð reðer.
 yteanc-ytopma gelac.
 ytunede rio bryne.
 yðr pið ofrhe.
 ut feor aðraſ.
 on pendel-yæ.
 pigendra ycola.
 up on þ igrland.
 þæt Apollineſ.
 dohtor punode.
 dæg-nimeſ pojn.
 pær ye Apollinur.
 æbeler cynneſ.
 Iober eaſona.
 ye pær glo cyning.
 ye licette.
 litlum y mclum.
 gumena gehyrcum.
 þæt he God* pæne.
 hehþt y halgoſt.
 Spa ye hlaſoſd þa.
 þæt dyriſe folc.
 on gedpolan lædðe.
 oðþæt him zelyſde.

A vessel with three rows of oars;
 Which is the greatest
 55 Of Grecian ships.
 Then was cold weather,
 A number of stark storms:
 The dusky wave
 Beat on another,
 60 *And* drove out far
 In *the* Wendel sea,
The band of warriors,
 Upon the island,
 Where Apollo's
 65 Daughter dwelt,
 A number of days.
 This Apollo was
 Of noble race,
The son of Jove,
 70 Who was formerly king;
 He pretended
 To little and great,
 To every man,
 That he was God,
 75 *The* highest and holiest.
 So did this lord then,
 That foolish people
 Lead into error,
 Until believed in him

leoda unjum. 80 A multitude of people ;
 ʃorhæm he ƿær mid ƿihte. Because he was rightfully
 nicej hirde. The ruler of *that* kingdom,
 hioja cýne-cýnnej. And of their kingly race.
 Luð 1f ƿide. It is widely known,
 þæt on þa tide. 85 That at that time,
 þeoda æghpilc hæfðon. Every nation held
 heoja hlaſoð. Their lord
 ʃorj þone hehþtan Ȑod. For the most high God ;
 and ƿeoþðodon. And worshipped *him*,
 Ȝra Ȝra ƿulðræs cýning. 90 Even as the king of glory ;
 ȝif he to þæt nice ƿær. If he to that kingdom was
 on ƿihte boren. Rightly born.
 ƿær þær Iober ƿæðer. This Jove's father was
 Ȑod eac Ȝra he. A God also as he was.
 Saturnus þone. 95 Him Saturn
 ƿund-buende. The sea dwellers
 heton hæleþa bearn. Call, *even* the children of men :
 hæfðon þa mægþa. They esteemed these kinsmen,
 ælcne ærtej of þum. One after another,
 ʃorj ecne Ȑod. 100 As the eternal God.
 Sceolðe eac ƿeran. Then also should
 Apollinej. Apollo's daughter,
 dohtor Ȝioj-boren. Nobly born,
 Ȝyrlæs ƿolcej. Be of the foolish people,
 gum-þinca ȝyðen. 105 A Goddess ;
 cuðe galðra ƿela. Known through many sorceries
 Ȝnýfan Ȝnýcnæftar. To exercise magic arts.
 hio ȝeþpolan ȝylgðe. She error followed

manna yriþoþt.	Most of people,
maneþna þiða.	110 Of many nations.
þýmínger dohtor.	The king's daughter
þio Eince pæg.	Was Circe
haten fop heþigum.	Called for her oppressions.
þio piçode.	She reigned
on þæm 1glondē.	115 In the island,
þe Aulixer.	Which Ulysses
cýning Ðnacia.	King of Thracia,
com ane to.	Happened to sail to
ceole lþan.	With one ship.
Luð pæg yona.	120 Soon was known
eallne þæne mænige.	To all the multitude
þe hine mid punode.	That with her dwelt,
æþelingær yð.	<i>The arrival of the prince.</i>
þio mid unȝemete.	She with unbounded
liþum luþode.	125 Favour loved
lið-monna yþea.	<i>The lord of the sailors;</i>
and he eac yþa yame.	And he in like manner,
ealle mægne.	With all his power,
yþne yþa yþiðe.	Even as greatly,
hi on yþan luþode.	130 Loved her in his mind;
þat he to hiþ eanðe.	So that he towards his country
ænige nýrte.	Knew not any
moder mynlan.	Inclination of mind,
oþer mægð giunge.	Above <i>the young maid</i> ;
ac he mid þæm yþe.	135 But he with that wife
punode yðþan.	Dwelt afterwards;
oðþat him ne meahte.	Until with him would not

monna ænig. Any man
 þegna^t ymra. Of his thanes
 þær mid ƿerjan. 140 There remain ;
 ac hi ƿor þæm ȳmþum. But they through the misery
 eadþeſ lȳſte. Of desire for their country,
 mynton ƿorlætan. Determined to leave
 leoſne hlaſorð. Their beloved lord.
 Ða ongunning ƿercan. 145 Then men began
 ƿer-þeoda ƿpell. To work spells ;
 ƿædon þ hio ƿeolde. They said that she should,
 mid hipe ƿcīlace. By her sorcery,
 beorñaj ƿorlædan. Lay *the* men prostrate ;
 and mid balo-cnæſtum. 150 And with wicked arts
 ƿraþum ƿeonpan. Quickly cast,
 on ƿilðra lic. Into *the* bodies of wild beasts
 cýninges þegnar. 155 The king's thanes ;
 cýpan ƿiðþan. And afterwards fetter,
 and mid pacentan eac. Some became wolves,
 ƿæpan mænigne. 160 And with chains also,
 Sume hi to pulcum ƿurdon. Bind many a one.
 ne meahton ƿonne ƿorð ƿorð- *And* could not then utter a
 bningan. word ;
 ac hio ƿraȝ-mælum. But they at intervals
 ƿioton ongunning. 160 Began to howl.
 Sume ƿærjan eadþoraj. Some were wild boars,
 a ȝrýmeteðon. And always grunted,
 ƿonne hi ƿarej ƿhæt. When they any grief

^t MS. ȝegnra.

160 *riorian* *rcioldon.*
 Da þe leon *pæpon.*
 ongumannon laðlice.
 ýrrengza *pýnan.*^u
 þonne hi *rcceoldon.*
 chriian *pōp* *coñþne.*
 Enihtaz *pupðon.*
 ealde ge *gianze.*
 ealle *þorhreñðe.*
 to *rumum* *ðiope.*
 165 *þpelcum* he ærop.
 on hiſ *liſ-ðagum.*
 gelicort *pær.*
 butan þam cýninge.
 þe *rio* *cpen* *luſode.*
 Nolde þaſa oþra.
 ænig onbitan.
 menniſceſ *meter.*
 ac hi ma luſedon.
 170 *ðiora* *ðrohtað.*
 175 *þpa* hit *geðeſe* ne *pær.*
 Nærðon hi mape.
 monnum *gelicer.*
 eorð-buendum.
 þonne ingeþonc.
 Nærðe anra *gehpýlc.*

Should bemoan.
 165 Those that were lions
 Horribly began
 To roar fiercely,
 When they should
 Call for *their* companions.
 170 *The* men were,
 Old and young,
 All transformed
 To some beast,
 Such as each before,
 175 In *the* days of his life,
 Was most resembling ;
 Except the king,
 Whom the queen loved.
 Of the others,
 180 None would taste
 The food of men ;
 But they more loved
 The society of beasts,
 As it was not fit.
 185 They had no more
 Of likeness to men,
 Inhabitants of earth,
 Than *the* mind.
 Each one had

^u MS. *pýna.* The context evidently requires an infinitive mood.

hij aȝen mod.
þæt pær þeah ȝriðe.
ȝorȝum gebunden.
þor þæm eaȝfoðum.
þe him onyæton.
þræt þa ȝyregan men.
þe ȝýrum ȝrýcraȝtum.
long lýðon.
leajum ȝpellum.
piȝron hƿæþne.
þæt þ ȝepit ne mæȝ.
mod onpendan.
monna ænȝ.
mido ȝrýcraȝtum.
þeah hio ȝedon meahte.
þæt þa lichoman.
lange ȝnaze.
onpend ƿuȝdon.
Iȝ þ punðoþlic.
mæȝen ȝraȝt micel.
moda ȝehpilceȝ.
oȝen lichoman.
lænne ȝ rænne.
Spýlcum ȝ ȝpýlcum.
þu meaht ȝpeotole onȝitan. Thou mayest clearly perceive,
þæt þær lichoman.
liȝtar ȝ ȝraȝtar.
oȝ þæm mode cumað.

190 His own mind ;
But that was greatly
Bound with sorrows,
On account of the troubles
Which him beset.
195 But the foolish men,
Who in these enchantments
Long believed
Through false tales,
Knew nevertheless,
200 That no man could
Change the intellect,—
The mind
By sorceries :
Though they may cause
205 That the bodies
A long while
Should be changed.
Wonderful is that
Great sovereign power,
210 Of every mind
Above the body
Frail and sluggish !
By these and such like things,
þu meaht ȝpeotole onȝitan. Thou mayest clearly perceive,
215 That of the body
The powers and faculties,
From the mind come

monna gehyrcum. To every man,
 ænlepna ælc. Each separately.

Ðu meaht eaðe ongitan. 220 Thou mayest easily perceive
 þæt te ma ðeƿeð. That *the* mind's vice

monna gehyrcum. Is more injurious
 mōðer unþeap. To every man,
 þonne mettƿymneſ. Than the infirmity

læneſ lichoman. 225 Of the frail body.

Ne ƿeaŋr leoda nan. Nor needs any man
 penan ƿære pýnde. Expect that event,
 þæt þ ƿeƿiȝe flæſc. That the vile flesh

þæt mōð. * The mind

monna ænigeſ. 230 Of any man,
 eallunga to him. Altogether to it

æfje mæȝ onpendan. Should ever turn ;
 ac ƿa unþeapaſ. But the vices

ælcer mōðer. Of every mind,

and þ inȝeþonc. 235 And the thought

ælcer monneſ. Of every man,

þone lichoman lit. Leads the body

þideŋ hit pile. Whither it will.

* This line is defective.

METRE XXVII.*

Hƿy ge æfre ƿylen.
 unriht-ƿiounzum.
 eopen mod ծnejan.
 ƿpa ƿpa meje ƿloðer.
 ȳþa hnefæð.
 ƿ-calde ƿæ.
 pecggæð ƿorl pind.
 Hƿy oðrite ȝe.
 ƿyndæ eopne.
 þæt hio gepeald nafað.
 Hƿy ge þær ծaeber.
 þe eop Dnihten ȝerfæd.
 ȝebidæn ne magon.
 bitnef ȝecynder.
 nu he eop ælce ðæg.
 onet ƿopeard.
 Ne magon ge ȝerion.
 þæt he ƿymle ƿyrpeð.
 æfter æghpelcum.
 eonjan tuðne.
 ծiorum ƿ fuðlum.
 ծeað eac ƿpa ƿame.

Why will ye ever
 With unjust hatred
 Your mind trouble,
 As the ocean's
 5 Waves lift up
 The ice-cold sea,
 And agitate it through the wind?
 Why upbraid ye
 Your fortune,
 10 That she no power possesses?
 Why cannot ye now wait
 For the bitter state
 Of that death,
 Which for you *the* Lord ordained;
 15 Now he each day
 Hastens towards you?
 Cannot ye see
 That he is always seeking
 After every
 20 Earthly offspring,
 Beasts and birds?
 Death also in like manner

* Boet. Lib. iv. Met. iv. Quid tantos juvat excitare motus, &c.

æftej mon-cynne. After mankind *seeks*,
 geond hynne middan geand. Throughout this middle earth,
 egerlic hunta. 25 Terrific hunter !
 abit on yaðe. And devours in pursuit.
 nyle he ænig ypað. He will not any track
 æfne yoplætan. Ever forsake,
 æn he geheðe. Until he has seized
 þæt he hysle æn. 30 That which he before
 æftej yrynde. Sought after.
 Ij ð eamlic hing. It is a wretched thing,
 þæt hys gebidan ne magon. That citizens
 buñg-rittende. Cannot wait for him ;
 ungerælige men. 85 Unhappy men
 hine æn yillað. Are rather desirous
 yoran toyciotan. To anticipate him.
 ypa ypa yugla cyn. As birds,
 oððe ylðu ðiø. Or wild beasts,
 þa pinnað betruh. 40 When they contend,
 æghyylc polðe. Each one would
 oþen acpellan. The other destroy.
 Ac þæt ij unriht. But it is wicked,
 æghpelcum men. In every man,
 þæt he oþenre. 45 That he another,
 inrit-þoncum. With his thoughts,
 yroge on yærðe. Should hate in his breast,
 ypa ypa yugl oððe ðiø. Like a bird or beast.
 Ac þæt ræne rihtoðt. But it would be most right,
 þæt te yinca gehyylc. 50 That every man
 oþnum gulðe. Should render to other

edlean on riht.
peorc be gepeorhtum.
peoruld-buendum.
þinga gehpilcer.
þæt is þe lufige.
godra gehpilcne.
þra he geornost mæge.
mildrige yfelum.
þra pe [æn]⁹ yppæcon.
He rceal þone monnan.
mode lufian.
and hif unheapar.
ealle hatian.
and ofyndian.
þra he yriþoþt mæge.

Dwellers in the world,
Reward proportionable
To his deserts,
55 In every thing :
That is, that he should love
Every one of the good,
As he best may ;
And have mercy on *the* wicked.
60 As we [before] said.
He should the man
With his mind love,
And his vices
All hate,
65 And destroy,
As he soonest may.

METRE XXVIII.*

þra is on eorþan nu.
unlærdra.
þe ne pundrige.
polcna fæneler.
noderer yriþto.

Who is now on earth
Of *the* unlearned,
That does not wonder at
The motion of *the* clouds,
5 *The* swiftness of *the* sky.

⁹ The alliteration required this insertion, which is sanctioned by the prose text.

* Boet. Lib. iv. Met. v. Si quis arcturi sidera nescit, &c.

þýne tunglo.
 hu hý ælce ðæge.
 utan ýmbhþeþfeð.
 eallne middan ȝeað.
 Ðpa iþ mon-cýnneþ.
 þæt ne pundrie ýmb.
 þær plitegan tungl.
 hu hý ȝume habbað.
 ȝþiðe micle.
 ȝcýnþan ýmbheþeþft.
 ȝume ȝcýnþað leng.
 utan ýmb eall þiȝ.
 an þapa tungla.^a
 populð-men hatað.
 þæneþ ȝiȝla.^b
 þa habbað ȝcýnþan.
 ȝcýnþe and ȝæneld.
 ýmbhþeþft lægjan.
 þonne oþru tungl.
 ȝorþæm hi þærne eaxe.
 utan ýmbhþeþfeð.
 þone noþð-endæ.
 nean ýmbceþfeð.
 on þærne ilcan.
 eaxe hþeþfeð.

And the course of the stars ;
 How they each day
 Revolve about
 All *the* middle earth ?
 10 Who is there of mankind,
 That does not wonder about
 These splendid stars ;
 How some of them have
 Very much
 15 Shorter circuits ;
And some wander far
 Beyond all this ?
 One of those stars
 Worldly men call
 20 The waggon's shafts.
 These have a shorter
 Revolution and course,
 A less circuit
 Than other stars ;
 25 Because they turn
 About the axis,
And near the north pole
 Revolve.
 On the same
 30 Axis turns

^a *tungel* literally signifies a star or planet ; but it may also be used to denote a constellation. I have translated it star ; and the same latitude may be given to that as is given to *tungel*.

^b Called also *Ursa major*.

eall ƿuma ƿodoƿ.
 necene ȝcniþeð.
 ƿuð-heald ȝriþeð.
 ȝriþt untioƿiz.
 Ƿra ƿi on ƿopulðe.
 þæt ne ƿariȝe.
 buton þa ane.
 þe hit ær ƿiȝton.
 þæt mæniȝ tungul.
 manan ȳmbhpýrþt.
 hafað on heofonum.
 ƿume ƿile eft.
 læjȝe ȝeliþað.
 þa þe lacað ȳmb eaxe ende.
 oððe micle maje.
 ȝefenað þa hine mid ope.
 ȳmbe ȝearle ȝnaȝeð.
 þana ƿi gehaten.
 Satuȝnuȝ ƿum.
 ƿe hæfð ȳmb ȝniciȝ.
 ƿinter-ȝeñimer.
 peoƿuld ȳmbcýrned.
 Booter eac.
 beoȝhte ȝcineð.
 oþer ȝteorra cýmeð.
 eȝne ƿra ƿame.
 on þone ilcan ȝteðe.
 eft ȳmb ȝniciȝ.
 ȝear-ȝeñimer.

All *the* spacious sky ;
It quickly revolves,
 And swiftly southwards
 Moves incessantly.
 35 Who is there in the world,
 That is not astonished,
 (Except those alone,
 Who knew it before,)
 That many stars
 40 A greater circuit
 Have in the heavens ;
 Sometimes again,
 They move in a less,
 That sport about the end of the axis.
 45 Or else much more
 They travel about the middle region,
 Swiftly run round.
 Of these one
 Is called Saturn,
 50 Which has revolved
 Round the world
 In about thirty winters.
 Also Bootes
 Shines bright,
 55 Another star *which* comes
 Even the same,
 To the same station again,
 In about
 Thirty years,

þær hi gio þa þær.
 Hƿa ƿiſ peoruld-monna.
 þær ne ƿarfge.
 hu ƿume ƿteorƿan.
 oð þa ƿæ ƿarað.
 undeŋ meje-ƿtƿeamað.
 þær þe monnum þincð.
 ƿpa eac ƿume penað.
 þær gio ƿunne do.
 ac ƿe pena niſ.
 puhte þe ƿoþna.
 Ne bið hio on æfen.
 ne on æf-morȝen.
 meje-ƿtƿeame þa neap.
 þe on midne ðæg.
 and þeah monnum þincð.
 þær hio on meje ȝange.
 undeŋ ƿæ ƿpiſe.
 ƿonne hio on ƿetl ȝldeð.
 Hƿa ƿiſ on peorulðe.
 þær ne ƿundriſe.
 ƿuller monan.
 ƿonne he ƿærinða.
 ƿyrð undeŋ polcnum.
 pliteſ beſeaſað.
 beſeaht mid þioſtƿum.
 Hƿa þegna ne mæze.
 eac ƿarfian.
 ƿelceſ ƿtioƿan.

60 Where he before was.
 Who is there of worldly men,
 That is not astonished
 How some stars
 Go to the sea,
 65 Under the ocean
 As it seems to men?
 So also some suppose,
 That the sun does.
 But the opinion is not
 70 Aught the more true.
 She is not in the evening,
 Nor early in the morning,
 Nearer *the* ocean,
 Than at mid-day;
 75 And yet it appears to men,
 That she goes into *the* water,
 Under *the* sea wanders,
 When she to her setting glides.
 Who is there in the world,
 80 That does not wonder at
 The full moon,
 When he suddenly
 Is under the clouds
 Bereaved of his splendour,
 85 Covered with darkness?
 Who of men can avoid
 Also wondering at
 Every star?

hpý hi ne ȝcinen.
ȝcijum ƿeðejum.
beðoran þær þunnan.
þpa hi ȝymle doð.
middel nihtum.
pið þone monan ȝofan.

• haðrum heofone.
Hƿæt nu hæleþa ȝela.
ȝpelcej and ȝpelcej.
ȝriðe ƿundrað.
and ne ƿundrað.
þæt te puhta ȝehƿilc.
men and netenu.
micelne habbað.
and unnetne.
andan betpeoh him.
ȝriðe ȝingalne.
iſ þ ȝellic þincȝ.
þæt hi ne ƿundrað.
hu hit on polcnum opt.
þeaple þunrað.
þnag-mælum eft.
anfoplæteð.
and eac ȝpa ȝame.
yð pið lande.
ealneȝ pinneð.
pið pið pæge.
Hƿa ƿundrað þær.
oððe oþþer eft.

Why they do not shine
90 In clear weather
Before the sun,
As they always do
At midnight,
In the presence of *the* moon,
95 In the serene heaven ?
Why do many men
At such and the like
Greatly wonder ;
And do not wonder
100 That everything,
Men and beasts,
Have a great
And unprofitable
Enmity between them,
105 Continually ?
It is an extraordinary thing
That they do not wonder
How it in the clouds often
Loudly thunders ;
110 *And* again at intervals
Ceases ?
And likewise,
The wave against *the* land
Always contends ;
115 And *the* wind against *the* ocean.
Who wonders at this ?
Or again at another *thing*,

hpý þæt iſ mæze.
þeorþan of þæteƿe.
þlīte toþht ƿcineð.
þunna ȝþegle hat.
þona ȝeceƿreð.
iſ me ne ænlic.
on hiſ aȝen ȝecynd.
þeorþeð to þætne.
Ne þincð þ ƿundor micel.
monna æneȝum.
þæt he mæze ȝeþeon.
ðoȝora ȝehƿilce.
ac þæt Ȱýrle ȝolc.
þær hit Ȱeldnor ȝerhð.
ȝriþor ƿundriðað.
þeah hit ƿiȝra ȝehƿaem.
ƿundor þince.
on hiſ mod-ȝefan.
micle lærre.
Undeȝ-ȝtaþolþærte.
ealneȝ penað.
þæt þ ealð ȝerceaft.
æfne ne ƿæne.
þæt hi Ȱelðon ȝerioð.
ac ȝriþor ȝiet.
þeoruld-men penað.
þæt hit ƿear come.
niƿan ȝerælðe.
ȝif hiƿa nængum.

How that ice may be
Formed from water?
120 Splendid in beauty shines
The sun hot in the sky;
And the pure ice
Soon turns
To its own nature,
125 And is changed to water.
That does not seem a great wonder,
To any man,
Which he may see
Every day;
130 But this foolish people
At that which it seldom sees
More wonders:
Though to every one of *the* wise
It appears
135 In his mind
A much less wonder.
Unstable *persons*
Always think,
That what they seldom see
140 Was not ever,—
An old creation;
But moreover,
Worldly men think
That it came by chance,
145 Newly happened;
If to none of them,

hpýlc ær ne oþeordæ.
iþ þ eamlic þinc.
Ac git hroða ænig.
æfþe peorþeð.
to þon fýrpet-georn.
þæt he fela ongind.
leornian liþta.
and him liþer peajð.
oþ mode abrit.
þæt micle dýrig.
þæt hit oferþrigeð mid.
punoðe lange.
þonne ic þæt geape.
þ hi ne punðrið.
mænigej þingej.
þe monnum nu.
þærþo ȝ punðej.
þel hƿær þýnceð.

Such before appeared not.
This is a wretched thing !
But if any of them
150 Ever became,
So far inquisitive,
That he begins to learn
Many sciences,
And for him *the* guardian of life
155 From *his* mind removes
That great ignorance,
With which overshadowed
It long remained ;
Then I well know,
160 That he would not wonder at
Many a thing,
Which to men now
Extraordinary and wonderful
Everywhere appears.

METRE XXIX.^c

Liþ þu nu pilnige.
peoruld-Drihtner.
heane anpald.
hlutne mode.

If thou now desirest
With enlightened mind
The high power
Of *the* world's Lord

^c Boet. Lib. iv. Met. vi. Si vis celsi jura tonantis, &c.

ongitan *gionne*.^d 5 Diligently to behold ;
 gemal-mægene. *View* the multitude
 heofonej tunglu. Of *the* stars of heaven ;
 hu hi him healdað betpuh. How they keep between themselves
 jibbe jingale. Perpetual peace.
 dydon *rypa* lange. 10 As they long have done.
rypa hi *gepenede*. So the chief of glory
 pulðrej ealdor. Accustomed them,
 æt *þnum-rcæste*. At the first creation,
 þæt *þio* *þynne* mot. That the fiery sun
 run ne *gefecan*. 15 Should not approach
þnap cealdej *reȝ*. *The* way of *the* cold snow,
 monna *gemæro*. *The* boundaries of the moon.
 Hræt þa mæran tungl. These splendid stars indeed
 auþen oþrej nene. Each other's course
 á ne *gehri*neð. 20 Never touch,
 ær þam þ ofeȝ. Before the other
 orȝepiteð. Goes away.
 Ne huju *re* *ȝteorpa*. Nor will the star
 geȝtigan pile. At all ascend
 peȝt-dæl polcna. 25 The west part of the sky,
 þone piȝe men. Which wise men
 Uþra nemnað. Call Ursa.
 Ealle *ȝtiorjan*. All stars
 jigað æfteȝ *runnan*. Descend after *the* sun,
 jamod mid *roðeȝe*. 30 Together with *the* sky,
 under eoȝhan *grund*. Under *the* bottom of *the* earth.

^d MS. *gionne*.

he ana ȝtent.
nij þ nan ȝundor.
he ȝj ȝundorum ȝæyt.[•]
upendē neah.
eaxe þær ȝodejer.
Donne ȝj an ȝteorpa.
oþer oþre beoþt.
cymed eajtan up.
æn þonne ȝunne.
þone^f monna bearn.
morn-ȝtioþra hatað.
undej heofonum.
ȝorþam he hæleþum ȝæg.
bodað æftej buȝtum.
þrengeð æftej.
ȝregeþorht ȝunne.
ȝamad eallum ȝæg.
ij ye ȝorþynel.
ȝægeñ and ȝciene.
cymed eajtan up.
ænþor^g ȝunnan.
and eft æftej ȝunnan.
on ȝetl ȝlideð.
peyt undej peorulde.
peþ-þiða hiȝ.
noman onþendað.

He alone stands still.
That is no wonder ;
He is wonderfully fast
35 Near *the* upper
Axis of the sky.
Moreover there is one star,
Above others bright ;
He comes up from *the* east
40 Before *the* sun ;
Which the children of men,
Under the heavens,
Call *the* morning star ;
Because he to men
45 Announces day through cities ;
And brings after *him*
The heavenly bright sun,
In like manner every day.
The fore-runner is
50 Fair and shining ;
Comes from the east up
Before *the* sun ;
And again after the sun,
Glides to *his* seat,
55 West under *the* world.
Mankind change
His name,

• MS. eajt.

f MS. þonne.

g MS. æjt þor.

þonne niht cýmeð.	When night comes;
hatað hine ealle.	<i>And</i> all call him
æfen-ȝtioðra.	60 <i>The</i> evening star.
je bið þærne ȝunnan ȝrýtña.	He is swifter than the sun,
ȝiðhan hi on ȝetl ȝepitað.	<i>And</i> after she departs to <i>her</i> seat,
oçýneð.	Outruns <i>her</i> :
þæt iñ æhele tungol.	That is a noble star,—
oð þ he be eaytan peoþheð.	65 Until he in <i>the</i> east
eldum oþepeð.	Becomes visible to men,
æn þonne ȝunne.	Before <i>the</i> sun.

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * habbað.^b 70 * * * have,

æhele tungol.	A noble star—
emne ȝebæled.	Equally divided
ðæg ȝ nihte.	<i>The</i> day and night,
Dnihtner meahtrum.	By <i>the</i> Lord's power,
ȝunne ȝ mona. ^a	75 <i>The</i> sun and moon,
ȝriðe ȝeþærne.	Very harmoniously;
ȝra him æt ȝrýmðe.	As to them at the beginning,
ȝæðer ȝetiohhode.	<i>The</i> Father appointed.
Ne ȝeanft þu no penan.	Nor needest thou to think
þæt þa plitegan tungl.	80 That these beautiful stars
þær ȝeopðomej.	Of this service
afnoten peoþðe.	Will be weary

^b That there is a deficiency here is proved both by the alliteration and prose; and as the supply would be conjectural, I have merely pointed out the defect.

^a MS. ȝunna ȝ mone. a is a masculine termination; therefore, for the reason before mentioned, it cannot be the termination of this word.

ær domer dæge.
 deð ƿiðþan ȳmbe.
 moncynner ƿnuma.
 ƿra him ȝemet ȝinceð.
 ƿorþon hi he healfe.
 heorzonef ȝirref.
 on ane ne læt.
 ælmihtig Ȥod.
 Ȫr lær hi oþna ƿordyðen.
 æbela ȝerceaſta.
 ac Ȫr eca Ȥod.
 ealle* ȝemetgað.
 ƿida ȝerceaſta.
 ƿorþa ȝeðpegað.
 hƿilum ȝæt Ȥrige.
 Ȥrige ȝone pætan.
 hƿilum hi ȝemenged.
 metodef cnaſte.
 cile ƿið hæto.
 hƿilum ceƿneð eft.
 on up ƿorðor.
 æl beophta lez.
 leoht lȳfte.
 ligeð him behindan.
 hefīg hñurjan dæl.
 þeah hit hƿilan ær.
 eorðe ƿio cealde.

Before domesday.
 The Author of mankind
 85 Will afterwards do to *them*,
 As to him seems meet.
 Therefore Almighty God
 Does not suffer them
 To be on one side
 90 Of this heaven,
 Lest they should other
 Noble creatures destroy.
 But the eternal God
 Moderates all
 95 *The* various creatures,
 And gently tempers *them*.
 Sometimes the dry
 Drives away the wet,
 Sometimes mix together,
 100 Cold with heat,
 By the Creator's skill.
 Sometimes again returns
 Up to the sky,
 The all bright flame,
 105 Light in air,
 And behind it lies
The heavy mass of earth;
 Though it sometimes before
 The cold earth

* MS. ealla.

on inna hipe.	110 Within itself
heold γ hyððe.	Held and hid,
haliger meahtum.	By the power of <i>the</i> Holy One.
Be þær cýningez gebode.	By the King's command,
cýmeð geaþa gehpæm.	It comes every year,
eoþðe bþinged.	115 <i>That the</i> earth brings forth
æghþylc tudor.	Every production ;
and γ e hata ȝumor.	And the hot summer,
hæleþa beaþnum.	To <i>the</i> children of men,
geaþa gehpilce.	Every year,
ȝiepeð γ ðriȝeð.	120 Prepares and dries
ȝeond ȝidne ȝnund.	Through <i>the</i> wide ground,
ȝæd and bleða.	Seeds and fruits :
hænþeft to honda.	Harvest to <i>the</i> hands
hej buendum.	Of dwellers here,
ƿipa neceð.	125 Bestows sheaves.
jen æfterj þæm.	Rain afterwards,
ȝpylce hagal γ ȝnap.	Also hail and snow,
hrujan leccað.	Water <i>the</i> earth,
on pintneȝ tido.	In time of winter,—
peðeȝ unhiope.	130 Tempestuous weather.
þor þæm eoþðe onþehð.	Hence <i>the</i> earth receives
eallum ȝæðum.	All seeds,
ȝedeð þ hi ȝnorað.	Makes that they grow.
geaþa gehpilce.	Every year,
on lencten tido.	135 In spring time,
leaf up ȝrnyttæð.	Leaves sprout up.
ac γ e milða metoð.	But the merciful Creator,
monna beaþnum.	For <i>the</i> children of men,

on eorljan fet.
eall þ te ȝnroeð.
pæytmaj on peopolde.
pel ȝorðþrenzeð hit.
bonne he pile.
herona palðend.
and eorað eft.
eorð-buendum.
nimð bonne he pile.
neŋzende Ȑod.
and þ hehýte ȝood.
on heah retle.
rīteð rēlf cýning.
and þior rīde ȝerceart.
þenað and þiopað.
he þone anpaldeð.
þaem ȝepelteþrum.
peoruld ȝerceaſta.
Nīr þ nan ƿundor.
he iȝ ƿenoda Ȑod.
cýning and Drihten.
cƿuceŋa ȝehpelcer.
æpelm ȝ ȝruma.
eallra ȝerceaſta.
þýrhta ȝ ȝceppend.
peoruld ȝiſſe.
piðom and æ.
populd-buendra.

In the earth nourishes
140 All fruits which
Grow in the world ;
Well brings it forth,
When he will,
Ruler of the heavens ;
145 And moreover shews it
To the inhabitants of earth ;
When he will
The Redeeming God takes away.
And this Highest Good
150 On his throne
Sitteth, a self king ;
And this wide creation
Serves and obeys him.
He rules it
155 With his reins,—
Worldly creatures.
That is no wonder,
He is the God of hosts,
King and Lord
160 Of each of the living ;
The fountain and origin
Of all creatures ;
The Maker and Creator
Of this world ;
165 The wisdom and law
Of the inhabitants of the world.

Ealle ¹ geſceafta.	All creatures
on hænendo.	On <i>his</i> errands <i>go</i> ;
hio nane ne ſendað.	He sendeth none
þæt eft cumað.	170 That again turn back.
Liſt he ſpa geſtæðbiſ.	If he so stable
ne ſtaþolade.	Did not establish
ealle geſceafta. ^m	All creatures,
æghpylc hioja.	Each of them
þnaðe toſtencte.	175 Would quickly
þeoñhan ſceoldeñ.	Have been dispersed;
æghpylc hioja.	Each of them
ealle to nauhte.	Entirely to nothing
þeoñhan ſceolbon.	Would have come,
þnaðe toſlopena.	180 Quickly dissolved.
þeah þa ane luſe.	But all creatures
ealle ⁿ geſceafta.	Of heaven and earth
heoſoneſ ſe oñhan.	Have one
hæbben gemæne.	Common love,
þæt hi þiopien.	185 That they should serve
þpilcum þiod-þnuman.	Such a Creator.
and ſægnað þ.	And rejoice that
hioja þædeñ paldeð.	<i>The</i> Father rules them.
niſ þ nan punðor.	That is no wonder;
þonþæm puhta nan.	190 Because no thing
æſpe ne meahte.	Could ever
elleſ punian.	Else exist;
þuſ hi eall mægene.	If they all with <i>their</i> power

¹ MS. ealla.^m MS. ealla geſceafta.

hiora oþð-þnuman.
ne þiropoden.
þeodne mærum.

Their author
195 Did not serve,
The illustrious Lord!

METRE XXX.^o

Omerus næg.
eaſt mid Erecum.
on þæm leoðcipe.
leoða cnaerigast.
Firzilieſ.
ſneond ȝ laneop.
þæm mæjan ȝceope.
magiſtja betyſt.
Hƿæt ye Omerus.
oþt and gelome.
þæne ȝunnan plite.
ȝpiðe hefede.
æhelo cnaerigast.
oþt and gelome.
leoðum ȝ ȝpellum.
leoðum neahſte.
ne mæg hio þeah ȝerçinan. She cannot nevertheless shine,
þeah hio ȝie ȝciþ ȝ beorht. Though she be pure and bright,

HOMER was
Among *the eastern Greeks*,
In that country,
The most skilful of poets;
5 Of Virgil
The friend and teacher,
To that illustrious bard
The best of masters.
But Homer
10 Very frequently
Greatly praised
The splendour of the sun;
And her noble virtues;
Very frequently,
15 In songs and speeches,
To *the people related.*

^o Boet. Lib. v. Met. ii. *Puro clarum lumine Phœbum*
Melliflui canit oris Homerus, &c.

ahpærgen ^p neah.	Everywhere near
ealle ^q geſcearſta.	20 All creatures ;
ne ƿurþum þa geſcearſta.	Nor further, the creatures
þe hio geſcinan mæg.	Which she can illuminate
endemēr ne mæg.	Can she equally
ealle ^r geondlihtan.	All enlighten
innan and utan.	25 Within and without.
Ac ye ælmihtega.	But the Almighty
palðend ƿ pýrhta.	Ruler and Maker
peorulde geſcearſta.	Of worldly creatures,
hij agen peorc.	His own work
eall geondpliteð.	30 All over illuminates,
endemēr þurhþyhð.	And equally sees through
ealle ^s geſcearſta.	All creatures.
Ðæt iſ ƿro ƿoðe.	That is the true
runne mid ƿihtē be þæm.	Sun of whom rightly
pe mazon ƿingan.	35 We may sing
ƿyþlc butan leage.	Thus without falsehood.

METRE XXXI.^t

þpæt þu meaht ongitan. TRULY thou mayest know,
 ȝiſ hij þe ȝeman lȳt. If it lists thee to attend,

^p Lye has no authority for ahþærgen, except this passage: the line should probably be ahþæp ȝeneah.

^q MS. ealla. ^r MS. ealla. ^s MS. ealla.

^t Boet. Lib. v. Met. v. Quam variis terras animalia permeant figuris, &c.

þær te miſlice.	That various
maneȝa puhta.	And many things
geond eorþan ȝapað.	5 Over <i>the</i> earth go
unȝelice.	Differently :
habbað blioh ȝ ȝænbu.	<i>And</i> have colours, and forms,
unȝelice.	And species
and mæȝ-þlitȝ.	Unlike.
maneȝna cýnna. ^u	10 Of many kinds
cuð and uncuð.	Known and unknown,
cneopað ȝ ȝnicað.	<i>The</i> whole body
eall lichoma.	Creeps and crawls,
eorþan ȝetenȝe.	Incumbent on <i>the</i> earth ;
nabbað hi æt ȝifþum ȝultum.	They have no help from wings,
ne magon hi mið ȝotum	Nor can they with feet go,
eorþan bȝucan.	[ȝangan. <i>And</i> enjoy <i>the</i> earth,
ȝpa him eadȝen pæȝ.	As was ordained for them.
ȝume ȝotum ȝtam.	Some with two feet
ȝoldan peðþað.	20 Tread <i>the</i> ground,
ȝume ȝieȝ-ȝete.	Some with four feet ;
ȝume ȝleogendȝ.	Some flying
pindeð undeȝ polcnum.	Circle under <i>the</i> clouds.
Brð ȝeah puhta gehpilc.	Yet every thing is
onhniggen to hnujan.	25 Inclined to the ground ;
hnipað of ȝdne.	Downward bends,
on peoruld pliteð.	Looks on <i>the</i> world ;
ȝilnað to eorþan.	Tends towards <i>the</i> earth ;
ȝume ned-ȝeanȝe.	Some through necessity.

^u MS. cýnnu.

jume neod-þræce.	30 Some voluntarily.
man ana ȝæð.	Man alone goeth,
metodes ȝerceafta.	Of <i>the</i> Maker's creatures,
mid hir andplitan.	With his countenance
up ən ȝepihte.	Upright.
Mid þy iſ ȝetacnōð.	85 By that is betokened,
þæt hir tƿeora yceal.	That his trust shall,
and hir mod-ȝeþōnc.	And his mind,
ma up þonne niþeſ.	More upwards than downwards
habban to heofonum.	Aspire to <i>the</i> heavens.
þy læſ he hir hige pende.	40 Unless he his mind should bend
niþeſ ypa þær nýten.	Downwards like the beasts.
Niſ* þ ȝedafenlic.	It is not seemly
þæt ye mod-ƿepa.	That the mind
monna ænigeſ.	Of any man
niþeſ-heald pere.	45 Should be downwards,
and þæt neb uppearð.	And his face upwards.

• MS. I. 1. The reading in the MS. may be rendered interrogatively; but the alliteration requires the negative verb.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

Note 1. Page 3, line 1. Ðuy Aelfred ur.

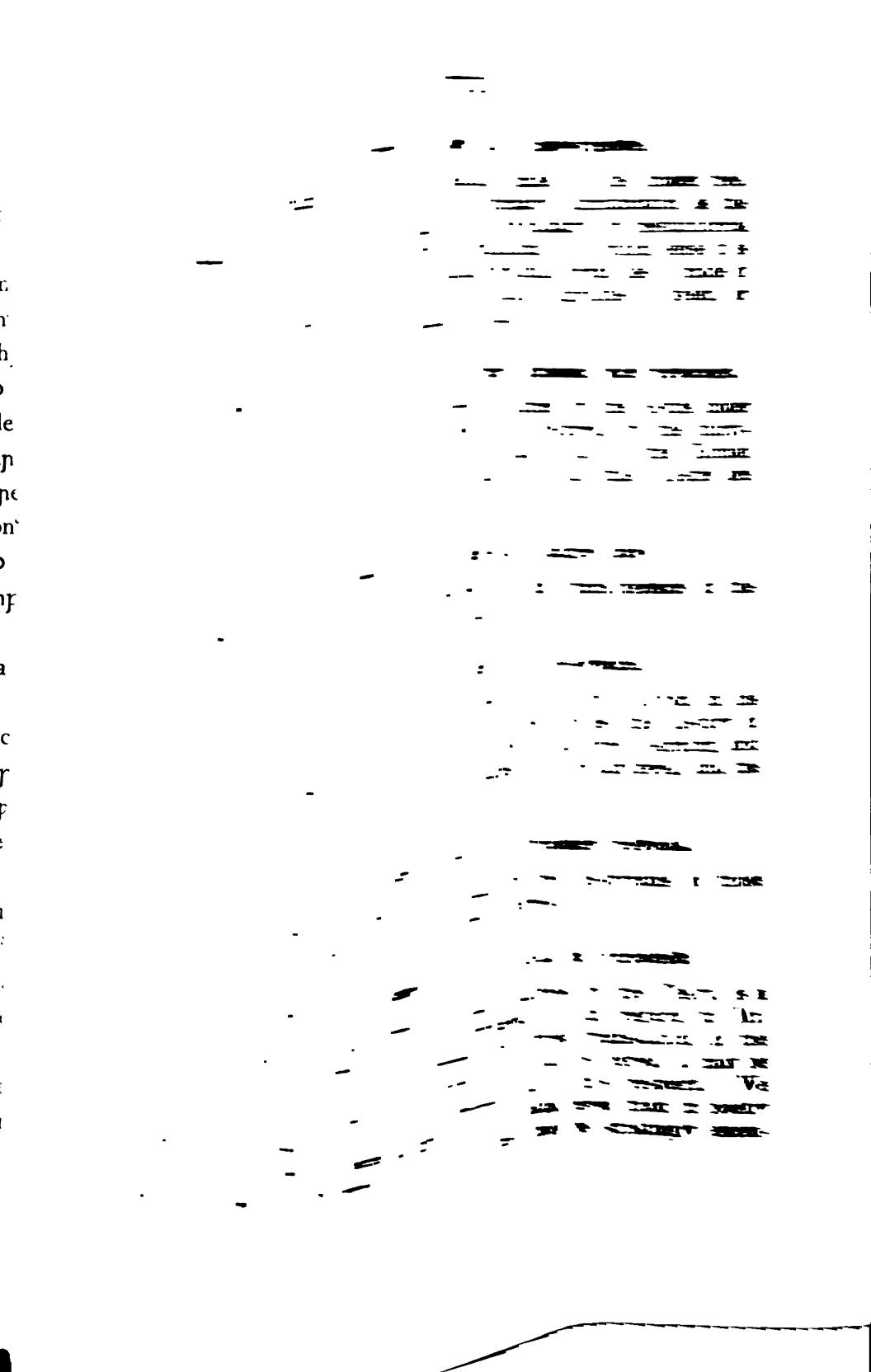
This introduction, which was prefixed to the Cottonian MS. alluded to in the Preface, is evidently not the production of Alfred himself; but it is an additional proof, if any were wanting, that he was the translator of Boethius, and the author of the Metrical Version. What is usually called the prose version of Boethius, contains the metres, but the translation is not in verse, although from the nature of the subject it nearly approaches poetry. Alfred, it is supposed, wrote this portion when harassed with those "various and manifold worldly occupations, which often busied him both in mind and in body," of which he so feelingly complains. And when he had overcome the difficulties which beset him, it is supposed that he reduced the translation of the Metres to that form, in which they have been handed down to us: being at once a monument of royal industry, and a pure specimen of the poetry of the Anglo-Saxons.

Note 2. Page 5, Metre 1.

What I have termed Metre I. is rather an original introduction of Alfred to the subsequent poem. The work of Boethius commences with a metre relative to his misfortunes, without alluding to the immediate cause of them:

"Carmina qui quondam studio florente peregi,
Flebilis, heu, mæstos coger inire modos.

As the whole of the Anglo-Saxon Metres are too paraphrastic to be strictly called translations, I considered it would be the simplest plan to number them from this.



plified by taking one of the poems ascribed to Ossian, and reducing it to the regular laws of verse. Mr. Turner, however, does justice to our author, by saying, "there is an infusion of moral mind and a graceful ease of diction in the writings of Alfred, which we shall look for in vain, to the same degree and effect, among the other remains of Anglo-Saxon poetry."

Note 9. Page 19, line 1. Du meaht be þærne junnan.

The first six lines of this Metre in Junius and Rawlinson are not pointed, although they clearly admit of metrical arrangement. This also occurs in other metres.

Note 10. Page 29, line 26. Sund-buende.

Sailors; literally, dwellers on the sea; as *eorð-buende* signifies dwellers on the earth: *populð-buende*, dwellers in the world. *Sund*, in its first acceptation, is swimming; in its second, the sea. Hence is derived the name of the Sound to the strait between Sweden and Denmark.

Note 11. Page 30, line 59. eap-geblond.

This word, which Junius and Rawlinson have written *eapge-blond*, merely signifies the sea; although in the supplement to Lye it is rendered, *maris commistio*.

Note 12. Page 40, line 66. Yelandey ban.

For an account of Weland, see Cardale's Boethius, p. 416.

Note 13. Page 51, line 5. þearf ȝ þornas ȝ fýrjas.

The names by which these plants are commonly known vary but little from the Anglo-Saxon. A similar affinity of language is very evident in most of our rural districts.

Note 14. Page 71, line 1. Eala min Drihten.

This metre contains another address to the Deity, which, like the former one, is extremely beautiful. The Latin metre is so amplified, that it may be considered an original composition.

Note 15. Page 111, Metre xxvi.

In this metre the story of Ulysses and Circe is related. In chap. 35, sect. 6 of the prose, the account of Orpheus and Eurydice is introduced, which, although devoid of regular alliteration, is nevertheless very poetical.

Note 16. Page 112, line 15. Retie.

Retia is a corruption of Neritia, a name derived from Neritos, a mountain in Ithaca, and sometimes applied to the whole island. See Cardale's Notes, 147 and 189.

Note 17. Page 114, line 61. Wendel-jae.

Wendel sea. The whole of the Mediterranean sea, as well as particular parts of it, was called by the Saxons the Wendel sea. The name is derived from *þindan*, to wind.

Note 18. Page 132, line 71. æþele tungol.

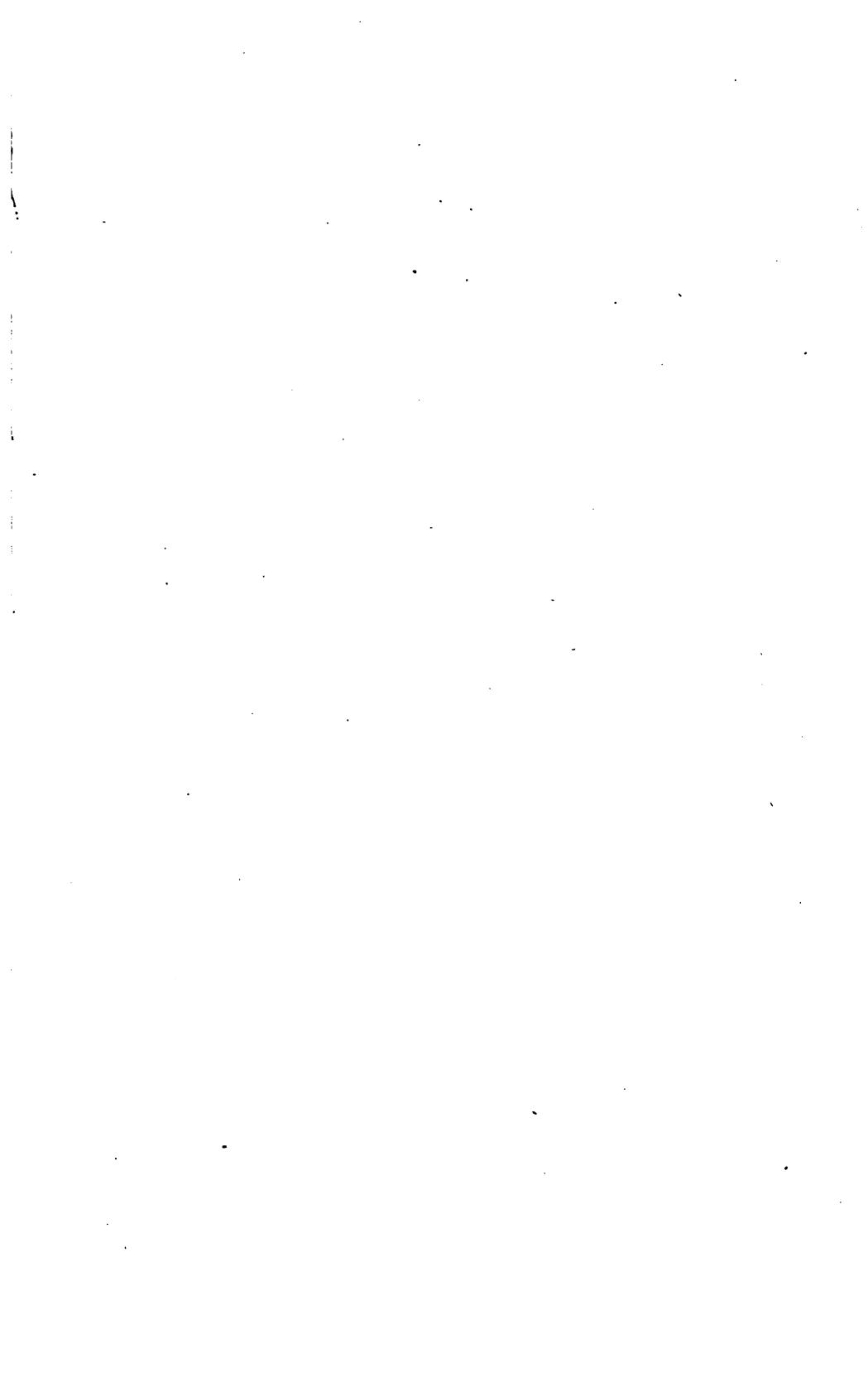
The difficulty which lies in this passage cannot be removed by putting *æþele tungol* in apposition with *junne ȝ mona*. in the first place, because *tungol* is of the singular number; and secondly, because in such apposition *junne ȝ mona* should occur first. It is to be feared the loss of the Cottonian MS. renders the obscurity irremediable.

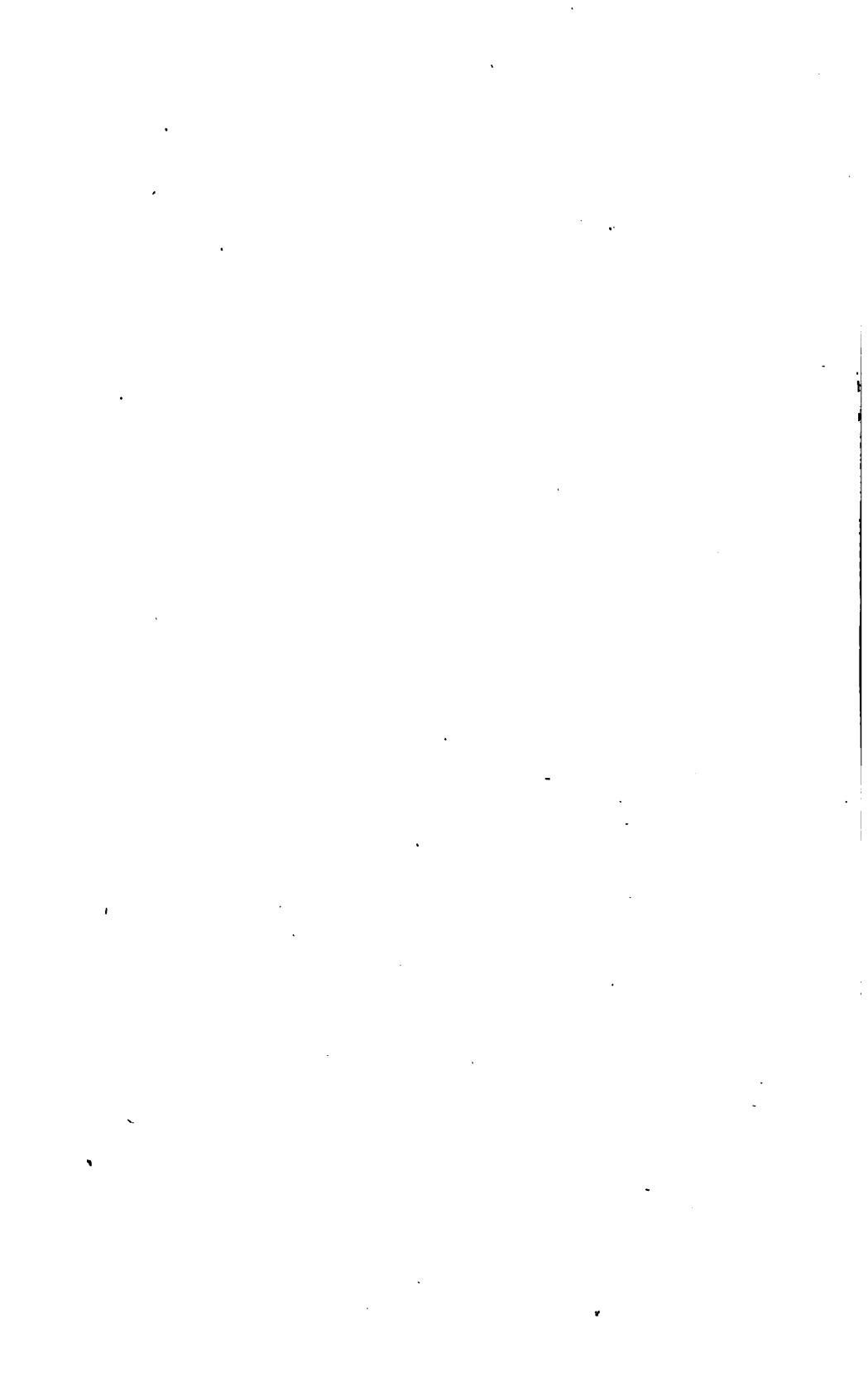
Note 19. Page 133, line 83. æn domej dæge.

Before dome's day, Dome's day signifies the day of judgment; being derived from *deman*, to judge. From whence also is derived the verb, to deem, i. e. to form a judgment or opinion.

Note 20. Page 137, line 1. Omerus yæj.

The anachronism of which the royal bard was guilty in this metre, is very pardonable. It is surprising that Alfred, amidst the cares and anxieties which oppressed him, should have formed any acquaintance with the celebrated poets of old.





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